DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 280 470 IR 051 829

TITLE IFLA General Conference, 1986. Regional Activities Division. Session on Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America. Papers.

INSTITUTION International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, The Hague (Netherlands).

PUB DATE Aug 86

NOTE 146p.; Papers presented at the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) General Conference (52nd, Tokyo, Japan, August 24-30, 1986).

PUB TYPE Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC06 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Appropriate Technology; Asian Studies; *Developing Nations; Foreign Countries; *Information Technology; International Cooperation; International Organizations; Library Associations; *Library Automation; Library Facilities; Online Systems; Optical Disks; Regional Cooperation

IDENTIFIERS Advancement of Librarianship; Africa; Asian Federation of Library Associations; Latin America; Library Development; Oceania

ABSTRACT

Papers on regional activities in Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America which were presented at the 1986 IFLA general conference include: (1) "Appropriate Technology for Libraries in Developing Countries" (Peter N. Chateh, Cameroon); (2) "The Impact of Information Technology on Libraries in Thailand--Present and Future Scene" (Nonglak Minaikit, Thailand); (3) "Library Automation and Online Information Services in Malaysia--A Futuristic Outlook" (Juliana Salim, Malaysia); (4) "The Present and Future of Optical Disc Technology for Library Application" (Senri Miyaoka); (5) "The Asian Federation of Library Associations--The Promise It Holds for Regional Consolidation and Interaction with IFLA" (J. S. Soosai, Malaysia); (6) "IFLA's Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World--Orientation, Mechanism, and Priorities" (D. E. K. Wijasuriya, Malaysia); (7) "Japan's Libraries and Asian Studies--with JOLG (Japan Orientalist Librarians Group) Activities (Kazushige Kaneko, Japan); (8) "Automation in Libraries--African Point of View" (J. S. Musisi, Kenya); (9) "Australia--Its Role in and Contribution to Asian Library Development" (Jennifer L. Adams, Australia); and (10) "New Information Technologies for Latin American Library and Documentation Services--Are There Benefits to Be Expected?" (Julio Cubillo, Chile). (KM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

ED280470

IFLA

General Conference

Regional Activities Division

Section: Africa
Asia & Oceania
Latin America

Tokyo, Japan

August 1986

IR051829

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

A.L. Van Wesemael

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IFLA

1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: Regional Activities

Section: Africa

25-REG-1-E

Appropriate technology for Libraries in Developing Countries

by

Peter N. CHATEH
CAMEROON

KEYWORD(S):

For internal use only: S1

To be brought to meeting no: 160

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

0348

IFLA 52nd GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

TOKYO-JAPAN 24 to 30 August, 1986

- GENERAL THEME "NEW HORIZONS OF LIBRARIANSHIP TOWARDS THE 21st CENTURY".
- SUB-THEME OF THEME OF PAPER : APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

BY PETER NK. CHATEH

2 6 MAR 1986

INTRODUCTION

It would amount to attempting to build another ivory tower if I attempt to talk about libraries in developing countries as a whole. Even an attempt to treat libraries in Africa or my region will still be idealistic. In this paper I will take the case I have really been involved in. The library of the University of Yaounde will be taken as a case study. Most of what I have to say will either be what I really did or my interaction with other players in the planning and building of the new library in the University of Yaounde.

In the paper, mention will be made of the various stages in the planning and execution of the new structures of the new university library. It will reveal that a new library originally meant to be a manual one will in the end become automated. Perhaps this is due to a happy coincidence with the implantation of a new IBM 4331 in the University of Yaounde. This computer is being upgraded to 4361 because the library will be a big user.

There is no gainsaying in that libraries in developing countries have to jump an intermediate step. Many, if not most, will have to go from manual operations to computerised ones. With the technological expansion in developing countries now, and the fact that computers are springing up everywhere, it is a necessity rather than a luxury to plan differently for libraries for the 21st centrury. When Eric Blair wrote his novel "1984", that year sounded a very very long time to come. It came and passed. The 21st century is at hand.

A lot has been written about technology in libraries. The library journals over the past decade have been carrying either experiences in computerised libraries or attempts to do so. At Unesco and other conferences people talk of transfer of technology. This is a question of transfering the technology

160 - 51

0349

from developed nations to the new ones. The other day a friend of mine talked of developing countries as countries or nations badly organised rather than undeveloped. What she meant was that if we managed our resources well we would come out of underdevelopment. In the same light "transfer of technology" does not have a place in my vocabulary. Appropriate technology in my thinking will mean technology that is not imported or imposed. It should also mean technology adopted to the peoples' living habits or if it modifies it, this should be gradual. It should fit into and improve their habits rather than destroy.

This technology should also respond to the socio-cultural life of the people. Repairs and maintenance of whatever equipment should be done without much delay. In other words, local teams should be there to carry out repairs.

I hold the use of appropriate technology in libraries as a thing for now and not only for the future. There is almost no boundary in the field of science now between the developed and developing countries. There is a large exchange of professors and students across continents. People go from the developed to the developing and vice versa. It is necessary to have the right tools. If the gap becomes too wide, it will require much effort to close. If we do not try to "bake well" we would always produce half "baked" people. These people cannot produce the required results. A lecturer or professor used to using appropriate technology for teaching physics for example, cannot accept to go on an exchange programme if he knows his knowledge will become stale within a year or will lag behind his colleagues when he returns. But if he knows the appropriate tools will be there he will not hesitate to go.

In this paper therefore, I will limit myself to my own experience in Yaounde in order to illustrate how and why conditions

can change somebody's plans. I think, for one thing, that users' demands can force university authorities to plan or think differently when a librarian presents his library requirements. If his requirements are backed up by tangible and viable statistics, they have a good chance of being accepted. The acceptability of a plan will depend on several factors. These could include:

(i) The availability of some technology in the country.

(ii) The use to which the library is put.

(iii) Users, have, first of all to know that the library is an indispensible teaching and research tool.

(iv) Various documents should be made available to them.

(v) Also, they should see the necessity for the use of improved means on what they are already used to. Human beings are by nature conservative. To change them, one has to show something better and convincing.

(vi) Another factor is the availability of skilled manpower to maintain the plant. If the machines will break down tomorrow with no way of repairing them, then, there is no point attempting to use high technology. As a condition, one should make sure that he will be able to maintain the technology. There is no point running if you cannot walk. It is however dearer to acquire the machines than to train the maintenance personnel. But it must be noted that it will cost much in the long run to maintain the machines. However the advantages outweigh the disadvantages by far. The over-all time gained by users far outweighs the cost. This however depends on the level of training of the library personnel.

In the case of the University of Yaounde Central library, I worked on every inch of its plan from the simple sketches to the final making of the plans for building. When we started in 1974 it had to be a manual working library. All the operations were to be done manually. But as it is often said "for every open door there is a clos

one", the plans or rather the whole plan came to a grinding hault in 1976. They remained dormant for a number of years. In 1979 things were reawakened. I had this time revised my stand on the way library operations should be carried out. In the mean time, luckily for our University I went to Ghana to do a consultancy for the UNESCO. It had something to do with library organisation and automation. In Ghana I was amazed, rather astonished with the number of computer plants I saw in Accra. The following year I was at the UNESCO in Paris and had another opportunity to discuss library automation with the head of the Division of library Automation. In the mean time there were plans to acquire an IBM 4331 computer for the University of Yaounde. Not only in the University, the use of technology is growing in Cameroon(1)

All these changed my thinking. I went from simple admiration of computerised libraries to a determination to computerise mine. Computerisation did not lead to much change if any, on the original plans. The service I had been rather hesitant in changing was the charging system. I used to think that it were better to use human labour for most of the operations rather than throw people out of job by the introducation of machines. The charging system was one of those I thought should remain manuel.

But the major changes on the plans occured when we decided that we had to make our own microfiches in the library. This technology requires special rooms. This does not however mean that computer terminals or link boxes would be kept just anywhere In any case, the building has to be centrally air-conditioned or at least the places where the terminales are located. This was so from the start.

One central aspect of wanting to use advanced technology is the high percentage of pilfering in Libraries in the developing countries. If a library has just one copy of a document and it is stolen, it is lost for ever. When a copy is kept in a micrographic form this simplifies the reproduction of a copy in any form. I may be over lecturing people who already know all the advantages in the use of high technology in library application or services. One important thing here is that one has to take an early decision on many things when a new library building is being envisaged. This is particularly true for the sizes and disposition of the various rooms.

In planning this library I worked with an architect. As a mater of fact, it should be a library consultant to do the part of the job I did. This was not the case for various reasons. My people have not yet perceived or understood the importance of a library in the life of a University or at least not all the people with whom I worked at that time. Secondly the amount of money to pay an external expert would have scared them from the project at the time. Thirdly I thought that I could also put my little experience to practice.

This paragraph and the following do not form any real part of appropriate technology but I thought including it will give some people an insight into a real experience lived.

From the beginning I merely wrote notes for the architect. The notes gave just the staff and their positions and a projected number for the next few years. It also included the services and their importance in relation to other parts of the library set up. By the time the architect came out with his first pencil sketches, we had written out standards for University libraries in Cameroon. The original aim was to bargain for money and staff.

0353

With this tool of "standard" I was able to write out a better programme and had yet a better bargaining power. A person planning a new library has to know that the architect wants first of all to produce a beautiful art object. It is the user who has to stress on whatever aspect he thinks should be included. One important thing a library planner should aim at is to acquire from the administration in writing or at least the architect, is the number of square feet he wants to use. You should have a minimum number of square feet from which to work upwards. It should be that you can increase and not reduce. The tendency in future is that the space occupied by books will diminish while the number of people coming into the library will increase. Therefore aim at obtaining the largest possible floor space. The aim is that when the University administration has given its word it will not go back easily on it.

Since we are building for the future, the walls could be flexible. When it becomes possible to reduce the space for books to increase that of users it should be done without any problems. A librarian who does not believe that in the next few years books will be coming in electronic or microforms is late.

Let us go back again to work with the architect. From the very start some sort of human and space repartition was made. The architect made simple sketches to represent or translate all the ideas into a plan. We then discussed this. The discussion at this stage was centred on two main points-room distribution and secondly their dimensions.

By the time my "standard" for University libraries was ready I found that it enlightened many an architect in more than one thing. Some of them had planned library buildings without leaving room for circulation. I provided 40% of the to total floor space for corridors, toilets, lifts and other passages of

0354

common interest. Some of the architects who had been working on University Centres revised their plans to include the 40%. It was therefore seen that my "standards" had a magical effect on my interlocators.

With this then I set up to writing a real brief for the architect. At the same time four University Centres were being set up in Cameroon. I therefore wrote the brief, what I call programmes for all the University centres.

From now on, most work with my architect was through correspondence. But from time to time, we would meet and discuss certain points on the project. In any case, even with discussions, we had to put it in writing afterwards. The written word is necessary. It could happen that there is an after thought on one point or another. The best thing to be done is to refer to the previous correspondence and ask for a modification.

It may sound very simple what I am trying to say. Not every librarian can read plans or at least sketches. The architect will want you to read the plans and give your opinion for him to proceed. Fortunately for me, I had developed an interest for plans when I was in the library school. It dawned on me that I may have to be planning new libraries. I therefore developed special interest in library structures. Perhaps my University studies in Geography helped me to read plans better. But it is not every librarian in the developing world that has to read Geography in University.

Quite often building plans are made in our Universities without thinking of the fact that there would be future expansion. Two things could be done. Acquire all the possible land including land for the future. Make plans only in as far as there will be money to build. Secondly make plans irrespective of the fact that there is money to build or not. In this later case, a part may

be built so that in future only slight modifications may be made on the plans for expansion.

In this second and last section we shall talk about what may constitute appropriate technology. I have already said that the words "transfer of technology" does not figure in my vocabulary. I have always preferred to say use of the necessary or appropriate technology. Transfer to me means applying the technology as it exists in the developed countries without taking into account whether or not it suits our conditions.

What then is appropriate technology? In attempting a definition I will say it is the technology which suits the local conditions -- human and social. It should also be used with maximum efficiency and give rapid results. This may include the use of computers for library applications, the use of micrographics and any other kind of technology that lends a hand or makes the work of the library faster. Why is it appropriate? It is so because it is adaptable to local conditions. The question may even be asked whether it means readapting the machines themselves. Here one may say, yes, why not. When I visited the University Microfilm International at Michigan in 1984 I was told most of the machines were remodeled to suit their particular needs. If a library in a developing country has the means why can it not adapt machines for its particular needs? Therefore, we may conclude by saying that where there is the necessity we have to use the most appropriate technology to serve the patrons.

Are we really talking about necessity or coincidence? We may need it but not have the means to acquire it. In my case both came in. I needed the technology and there was the happy coincidence that a computer was acquired to help teach and run certain services in the University of Yaounde. As a result, the University authorities readily accepted that I visit countries

where this technology is being used in libraries in order to help me work better. However, before I made this ultimate journey we had already finished the plans of the library. The journey across the U.S.A., was therefore to see new things for myself. When I rendered the count they easily accepted. But in the mean time conferences were held in Yaounde on the use of computers in management . The last straw was when we got a new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. They were all open to the use of appropriate technology. In fact, the new Chancellor asked me whether the library was computerised. Not too many librarians may be as lucky as I was.

The reason I had hesitated on the use of advanced technology the time I left the library school was that it may replace the "cheaper" human labour we have in developing countries. The point now is how long will labour continue to be "cheap". As inflation touches all countries salaries go up. In certain cases the advanced technology may even be cheaper than the human labour. When well applied, technology will give faultless answers. It is rapid.

Perhaps it may even now be considered as a compliment to human labour. While not being too expensive it renders the work better for human beings. Take cataloging for example. When books are catalogued with the help of computer terminals it is easier to correct whatever errors there may be. Human beings touch the book for cataloging only twice if need be; once in some cases. The corrections may sometimes be to correct punctuation errors. In this case, one does not have to be carrying books or documents all over the place.

In the case of our new library we have decided to acquire 24 computer terminals for various jobs. About 8 of them will be

used for cataloging. The one in the librarian's office will be used to verify various operations. He can now verify cataloging and even classification without moving form his place. We intend to be able to inform the users on the spot whether or not a book is sitting there on our shelves. Orders will be fitted unto the computer. When documents arrive this is fed into the computer also. Journals are among the most important documents a library holds. We hope to be able to manage our journals with the computer. This will help the journal librarian to follow up all journal holdings easily.

We are in the part of the world that books and other library documents reach with difficulty. We also manage to acquire some of the books that are rather rare. All these we have made appropriate arrangements to put them on micrographics. We intend to buy two types of equipments for our microreproduction. The aim is that we would buy machines that have been in use for sometime but at the same time, buy machines that are just getting into the market. We intend to acquire the 3m microfiche machines.

People are waiting anxiously for our new and computerished library. We cannot afford to disappoint them. Besides the computer and micrographics we shall also use audio-visual material. Even in the administration, there is talk of using all forms of technology

We may really consider the aim of the use of any appropriate technology in library applications. Technological know-how is meant to make things faster. Any technology which does not improve the manual system should be considered as faulty. The use of computers in a library, for instance, should help users spot rapidly what they went. In this way we may say that it helps research and the learning process. Micrographics, besides storing large quantities of information in very small space also help

scanning. Material stored this way also has a longer life span.

When at first these machines were few, it was thought of as expensive. Now that many more business concerns are using the computer it has become cheaper either to buy or to hire. Therefore the fear that if the machine breaks down it will not be easily repaired is no longer there. When ever and whatever machines breakdown they are easily and readily repaired.

I know certainly that some institutional authorities find it hard to accept new technology. If we play our rôle well as technicians and administrators, we can get them to see these machines and eventually support their acquisition and use. You will imagine the feelings of University authority who has written either articles or books and who, when he arrives in a library that is computerised finds that all he has done appears on a screen within seconds. He will certainly say he will want to see his own library function that way.

There used to be the complaint that manpower to prepare programmes or maintain machines was rare. This is a far fetched problem nowadays. With the spread of high technology many more people are training to either formulate machine readible programmes or maintain the machines. When we advertise the post of a programmer or analyst many candidates now present themselves within a short time. Also, in many of our Universities there are many people holding the Ph.D. in computer science. In Cameroon, for example we have more than five in the University. We used to think we may go elsewhere to look for the hard and soft ware specialistes. What is important is that they came in within a short time. That question is now resolved. We are even going to face the problem of whom to choose to work with us.

CON CLUSION

Technology applied to library use is no longer that magic word. The use of technology in library work has come to stay. In the advanced countries, research is no longer on the use of technology but on how to improve on it. It even goes beyond improving on it. The library of Congress for example, has gone from the use of the computers to the optical disc which has now entered the stage of application.

Libraries of the 21st Century as any other business world wide is going to function on the basis of technology. Life is moving very fast. More and more technology that helps business is coming out. Just a few years back, it was a dream to think of landing and even driving on the moon so people hardly imagined that you can carry millions of volumes just in a portemanteau. But this is true. It will soon be possible for a single person to carry the whole library of Congress on his head. You can now send a photocopy across America as you speak to somebody. You use the scan-master to do this.

If all is going technology wise it will be folly to think that you can do without it. When you can only get a document in a microfiche you must afford a reader. Since your partner wants only the microfiche you will have to be forced to make your own. Therefore whether we in the developing countries want it or not, we are bound to be dragged into the game of high technology. The world is getting smaller each day. No library can afford to live in isolation. If you try to live in isolation you will die. Technology has come to stay ; we have to use it.

It is even cheaper and faster to use technology in library work. Since the 24 volumes of the "Encyclopaedia Britanica" can be condensed into a letter size it is cheaper to send it than to send the whole series. Since it is faster to send a photocopy with the use of the scan-master, it is in the interest of the library to acquire it to use to receive photocopies.

You cannot read your micro-fiche under the rays of the sun. You will be forced to use or buy readers.

In economics there is the talk of economies of scale. The more the machines are produced the cheaper they become. There will soon be no excuse for not acquiring the simple tools we need in our library. I recently visited a library in construction in the U.S.A. The comment was that when the format will change we will have more sitting places than they have planned. You too should think this way.

Perhaps the key word should be that when you have it, use it. In the case of our University, we were planning to build a new library when there were plans to buy a new computer. In addition to the fact that the then university authorities toured the U.S.A. and got more convinced of the use of computers in the library we had started working towards using the computer. Nobody has for a long time now been alarmed when I explain how we were going to function. I may say I have been lucky all along. The former team left but a new team of high administrators came. The Chancellor was surprised we were not computerised. This situation in Cameroon may be unique or one of the few in Africa but we have to know that whether we like it or not, the library of the 21st Century will be different. The horizons of librarianship towards the 21st century are electronic whether we like it or not.

We know the technology is there. We know some users are even hesistant to use the new and modern diverses. They will have to use them. Library schools are re-orientating their outlook towards new technology. We cannot think that we will remain where we are in our own world. It is not true. We have to skip certain intermediate steps to meet up with the new technology. We have to forget what went between. But there is a political factor. Quite often some libraries think they have to look on only to their

former colonial masters. Some of these colonial masters are as underdeveloped as the "developing nations". The blind cannot lead the blind. You may have to go your own way. If we continue to think that advanced technology is a thing of the "advanced world" we will remain behind for many years to come. We cannot afford to remain behind, our childrens children will exhume our bones and try them in the courts. We have a duty, let us not be shy.

SOURCES OF SOME INFORMATION

(1) INSTITUT AFRICAIN D'INFORMATIQUE (IAI)

At the opening session of the Administrative Board of the African Institute of Computers Sciences, Minister Kamgueu declared "Our country must use the advantages offered by computers ..." - in Cameroon Tribune N° 3248 of 13 April 1985, p. 2.

(2) MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIQUE RESEARCH

Opening the technological week the Minister of Higher Education and scientific Research said "the aim is to inform Cameroonians of the present stage of technological development. This means, he went on, making Cameroonians aware of the importance of technology in development..." - Technology week. In Cameroon Tribune N° 3304 of 22nd June 1985, p. 3.

(3) EDZIMBI Louis D.

Reporting in Cameroon Tribune on the closing of the week of technology week the Minister of Higher Education called for the "Introducation of the teaching of technology (at least notions) in our primary and secondary schools; and the creation of a national centre for scientific and technical information .., " - in Cameroon Tribune N° 3310 of 29 June 1985, P. 2.

(4) CAMEROON TRIBUNE N° 334 OF 27 JULY 1985, P. 2 reported on the Information Centre of the "Mission d'Etudes pour l'Amenagement du Littoral" (MEAL)

"That the aim of its "Centre d'Information et de documentation" (CID) is to put all the elements that relate to land use etc. on line for easy exploitation..."

(5) MINISTERE DE L'INFORMATIQUE ET DES MARCHES PUBLICS. - Séminaire pour les cadres camerounais/Ministère de l'Informatique et des Marché Publics. In Cameroun Tribune n° 3432 du 23 nov. 1985, p. 2

Here the Minister said, I quote the French version "C'est pour permettre aux hauts responsables de l'Administration camerounaise et aux directeurs généraux des sociétés para-publiques d'appréhender et de planifier l'utilisation de l'outil informatique et des Marchés publics organise à partir de lundi prochaine un séminaire informatique ..."

(6) Mr MBOTO FOUDA reporting in Cameroon Tribune N° 3436 of 28 november 1985, page 5 on the end of a seminar for high Government officials said in French "Pour une amélioration de la gestion de nos administrations" - création et la saisie de gestion et la distribution des données, de textes d'images et voix ..."

(7) CHATEH, MINKA, BESSALA,
Standards for University libraries, University of Yaounde library. 1977

P. Nkangafack CHATEH
University of Yaounde
Cameroon

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO 1986

Division: Regional Activities

Section: Asia

58-ASIA-1-E

The Impact of Information Technology on Libraries in Thailand - Present and Future Scene

by

MINAIKIT Nonglak

Head, Department of Library Science

Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok 10500, Thailand

KEYWORD(S):

Information Technology

Libraries

Thailand

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no: 140

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

The Impact of Information Technology on Libraries in Thailand - Present and Future Scene

"Information Technology", the use of computer and telecommunications in library operation, has been applied in Thailand for almost two decades. This paper aims at providing an overview of the present state of its application in Thai libraries and to discuss briefly its impact on library operation in this country in the future.

The Present

Information technology came to Thailand in 1968 when the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), an international post-graduate institute specializing in science and technology, began an experimental project in the use of computer in some house-keeping library operations such as journal listing and control, acquisitions and accounting. Since then, computerized library projects have been increasingly developed by many university and special libraries and information centres as well as the National Library. The present state of library automation in Thailand shall be reviewed under the following headings: serials, acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation and reference/information service.

Serials

The application of computer in the production of the list/union list of serials is found to be the most popular in Thailand. It is evident from many cooperative projects which have been carried out at the local, national and international levels. The Asian Institute of Technology is the pioneer in launching a mechanized union list of serials project in 1974 under the sponsorship of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Twenty-nine libraries in Bangkok participating in this project. The system was run on an IBM computer with an in-house software developed by an AIT systems analyst. The product of the project:

Union List of Serials in Thailand: Automated Union List of Serials Stage 1: Abstract and Index Journals, appeared in book form in 1975. It contains 1,100 abstract and index journal titles in foreign languages.

The project proved to be fruitful to most libraries. Consequently, the AIT continued with stage 2 of the project. The system was operated on an IBM 3031 using UNESCO CDS/ISIS software package under the auspices of UNESCO. The product of this successful project appeared in 1980 under the title Union List of Serials in Thailand, first edition. It is a computer-based union list containing 6,900 titles in all subject areas. These titles were found in 41 libraries of six institutions in the Bangkok Metropolis.

After the success of the first edition of the Union List of Serials, the AIT which was involved in the development of many other computerized library projects decided to transfer its responsibility for the Union List to government institutions. Subsequently, Chulalongkorn University's Academic Resource Centre was selected by the Committee on University Library Administrators, Ministry of University Affairs, to take over the project.

In 1981 Chulalongkorn University's Academic Resource Centre proposed a project on computerized Union List of Serials, second edition, to the Ministry of University Affairs in order to obtain additional financial support over and above the US$5,000 already allocated for the project by UNESCO, which also provided the University with CDS/ISIS software. The second edition of the Union List of Serials in Thailand, in book form was completed in late 1985. It contains 8,000 serials titles in 68 libraries. The data base is, however, occasionally accessible for on-line searching. The search keys include title, ISSN, publisher and holdings.

The third edition of the Union List of Serials in Thailand has been carried out as a 3-year (1984-1986) project under the responsibility of Chulalongkorn University's Academic Resource Centre. As many as 150 local libraries have participated in the project. Several workshops on data preparation have been arranged on a regular basis for new members.

The other three notable projects on computerized union list of serials are: Union List of Serials in Mahidol University Libraries; Scientific serials in Thai Libraries, and Union List of Serials in Southeast Asia.

Union List of Serials in Mahidol University Libraries was initiated in October 1982 as a cooperative project among eleven faculty libraries of Mahidol University. The system was operated on a Perkin-Elmer 3230 super-mini computer (2MB) installed at the Mahidol University Computing Centre. The computer programme was written in FORTRAN-77. The master file contains 4,761 records. The system is available for on-line search service through four search keys: serials no; ISSN; title; and subject heading.

Scientific Serials in Thai Libraries (SSTL) is a computer-based union list designed to contain 6,000 scientific serials of 89 libraries. The Computer Section of the Thai National Documentation Centre (TNDC) is in charge of the project which was launched in April 1984. The system is run on an IBM PC (256 KB) using dBASE II software package. It is expected that the final product will be fruitful to scientific and technical libraries and information centres within the country because it will facilitate the sharing of information and resources among the libraries and centres concerned.

Union List of Serials in Southeast Asia is a pilot project of the Internationl Serials Data System Regional Centre for Southeast Asia (ISDS - SEA). The Centre was established in 1976 with financial support from UNESCO and IDRC (International Development Research Centre, Canada). The ISDS-SEA is located in the premise of the National Library of Thailand. This project began in 1980 and was completed in 1983. It is a computerized data base of 3,300 serials titles in all subject areas which were found in five member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The Union List, in book form, is composed of four parts: complete record in key title order; ISSN index, key title index arranged by country; and classification index arranged by Dewey Decimal Classification. The Union List is available in book form to member libraries.

Acquisitions

Computerized acquisitions is minimal in libraries in Thailand. Five libraries and information centres are currently working on the computerized acquisition projects. The AIT's Library and Regional Documentation Centre operates an on-line and off-line automated acquisition system on an IBM 3083 (16 MB) using CDS/ISIS software since 1982. The National Institute of Development Administration's Library and Information Centre (NIDA) has three experimental projects on acquisitions: serials control system run on a Burrough minicomputer; serials and book acquisitions projects operated on a NEC 8001 microcomputer using dBASE II and TBASE software packages.

The National Library of Thailand began its book acquisition system in 1985. It is run on an IBM PC/XT (512 KB) using dBASE III software package. Chiang Mai University's Central Library began its book acquisition project in 1984. The system is operated on a Victor (128 KB) microcomputer using dBASE II software.

The UN/ESCAP Population Clearing House and Information Section, Population Division also operates its acquisition system on an IBM PC/AT computer using dBASE II, WordStar and INMAGIC software packages.

Cataloguing

Automated cataloguing as a part of routine library operations was inaugurated at the AIT's Library and Regional Documentation Centre in 1982. The BOOKCAT data base contains over 60,000 records of monographs which the AIT's Library has acquired since 1971. The system is currently operated on an IBM 3083 using CDS/ISIS software. The data base is available for on-line searching through author, title, key words in title, subject heading and Boolean operators. Besides providing an on-line search service, the system also produces catalog cards and spine labels on an IBM Display Writer.
In 1985 the NIDA's Library began its experimental project on the book catalogue which is operated on the NEC microcomputer using dBASE II package.

The other two projects are not exactly computerized cataloguing. They have been derived from manual cataloguing under a cooperative programme among sixteen major libraries in Bangkok, with the National Library of Thailand as the centre of the programme. The first project is computerized Thai National Bibliography and the second is Thai National Union Catalogue. Both projects are operated on an IBM 3031 at the National Statistical Office (NSO). The computer programme were written in COBOL and PL/1.

Circulation

At present, no automated circulation is in operation in libraries in Thailand. Only a few experimental computerized circulation projects deserve mentioning. The Computer Research and Service Centre of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology has an experimentation on two circulation systems. One is operated on a NEC ACOS-300 computer with a programme in COBOL, the other is run on an IBM/PC computer using dBASE II software package. The NIDA's Library began to operate a circulation control project on an EPSON microcomputer with a programme written in BASIC in 1984. A few other university libraries also have plans to utilize microcomputers in their circulation procedures in the near future.

Reference/Information Service

To provide an efficient service to meet the users' needs, many libraries and documentation/information centres attempt to develop a computerized data base for information retrieval purpose. The following are libraries and documentation/information centres which provide such a service.

The AIT's Library and Regional Documentation Centre operates six data bases which are available for on-line searching through a visual display terminal. They are: AAGE (Asian Information Centre for Geotechnical Engineering); ENSC (Environmental Sanitation Information Centre); IFIC (International Ferrocement Information Centre); RERI (Renewable Energy Resources Information Centre); UNIO (union List of Serials in Thailand);

and BOOKCAT. These systems are operated on an IBM 3083 computer using CDS/ISIS software.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN/ESCAP) Library has operated the ESCAP Bibliographic Information System (EBIS) since July 1981. The system is run on a NEC 350 computer using IRS-4 (Information Retrieval System-4) software package.

Thai National Documentation Centre carries out two mechanized bibliographic projects: Master's Theses in Thailand and Index to Royal Thai Gazette with concentration on laws and regulations in science and technology. The computer programme were written in PL/1 and COBOL. The systems are operated in batch processing mode on an IBM 3031 computer at NSO.

The NIDA's Library is experimenting on an information retrieval system for books on statistics and econometrics. It is operated on a Burrough minicomputer using COBOL.

The National Energy Information Centre of the National Energy Administration of Thailand launched a bibliographic data base on energy resources project in 1984. The system is run on a Hewlett Packard 3000/40 computer using MINISIS software package.

Besides the aforementioned in-house development projects, some libraries also provide an on-line information retrieval service directly through DIALOG Information Services in California, U.S.A. The libraries of the following institutes/organizations which provide such service are: AIT, AUA (American Universities Alumni); Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University and Sukhothai Thammathirat University. Users have to pay fees for the search services.

The Population Clearing-house and Information Section of ESCAP's Population Division began to provide searches for professionals in the Asian and Pacific region through the POPLINE data base in January 1986. The searches service can be obtained free of charge.

As far as the standard of machine-readable cataloguing (MARC) is concerned, the National Library of Thailand devised THAIMARC (Thai Machine-Readable Cataloguing) for using with the Thai National Bibliography project. Also, the Ministry of University Affairs appointed in 1985 a Sub-committee on Computer Applications to Library OPerations to devise a complete MARC format for the shared cataloguing activities among university libraries in the future. It is expected that the workshop on MARC will be organized in November 1986.

At present librarians in Thailand are going through a period of self-education on modern information technology. They are either attending or in the process of joining a training course on on-line bibliographic data base searching, attending workshops on computer and telecommunication technologies, as well as wondering whether or not to buy microcomputer and which one. Many libraries and information centres regularly organize workshops on computer application to information work, for instance, the ESCAP's Regional Population Information Centre, Population Division, arranges an annual in-service training course on microcomputers in population work. Chulalongkorn University's Academic Resource Centre organizes several workshops on on-line searching through the DIALOG data bases, and Mini-micro CDS/ISIS software. The Academic Librarians Group arranges a series of workshops on the application of microcomputers to library works using dBASE II software packages.

In oder to assess the librarians' attitudes concerning information technology, a questionnaire survey was conducted by Srion Janeprapapong in November 1985 among three hundred and fourteen librarians who work in fifty-two central, faculty and campus libraries at nine universities in the Bangkok Metropolis. Two hundred and eighty-one librarians (84.49 per cent) responded to the questionnaire. The survey results indicate that the majority of librarians have positive attitudes on information technology: they agree that information technology speeds up and facilitates the

the processing and disseminating of information; they believe that librarians should cooperate with technology specialist in order to make the computerized projects a success; they are not afraid that information technology, especially computer technology, will destroy their job. However, they recommend that the library schools should offer more courses concerning information technology and arrange both formal and informal continuing education programmes on information technology.

The Future

The future of the application of information technology in libraries in Thailand is likely to be partly a centralized system for certain bibliography project, such as the union list of serials and the union catalogue, and partly a totally distributed system for other functions, such as circulation and acquisitions, with wider competition among libraries to develop their own systems on microcomputers. However, the standardization of the machine-readable format for monographs, serials and non-printed materials will be required for bibliographic data interchange. On-line information service through in-house developed bibliographic data bases as well as commercial data bases will be increasingly important. It is likely that users have to pay for the information they request through on-line search services. Problems of fee vs. free may then occur.

Ten years from now, it is expected that in most libraries, all hand-manipulable records will be automated. There will be the use of electronic mail. Ordering and accounting will be automated. Collection use statistics as well as other library statistics will be easily available for decision-making and planning purposes. On-line cataloguing will become popular. There will be financial savings of manual operations and certain clerical works. However, costs will increase due to the maintenance of high technology. Library administrators may have to think of the possibilities of sharing the high cost of high technology among libraries through some cooperative computerized projects and networking.

Bibliographic References

LEE, Hwa-Wei. Library mechanization at the Asian Institute of Technology. International Library Review, 3, Jun.'71: 257-270.

NONGLAK Minaikit. Kānchaikhq̄mphiutōephuánganhq̄ngsamutnaiprathētthai (The application of computer to library operations in Thailand) In: Banarak'30 (Librarian'30). Bangkok, Department of Library Science, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, 1985, pp. 16-54.

SRION Janeprapapong. Thatsanakhatikhq̄ngbannārakhq̄ngsamutmahāwitayālaitq̄theknōlōyīsaranithet (Academic librarians' attitudes on information technology). Master's thesis. Bangkok, Department of Library Science, Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University, 1986.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: Regional Activities

Section: Asia

1988

59-ASIA-2-E

Library automation and online information services in Malaysia: a futuristic outlook

by

SALIM Juliana

Reference Librarian

Perpustakaan tun Seri Lanang

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

K E Y W O R D (S):

Library automation
Online services
Telecommunication infrastructures
Malaysia

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no: 140

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

0858

INTRODUCTION

"Never use a computer to create an author index" said a librarian. "If the use of computers could replace staff from processing activities, only then I would consider automating the library processes!" remarked a chief librarian. These were statements made by librarians whose fears of the complex mechanical systems have not been overcomed. Though such fears of the unknown still exist among some librarians in Malaysia, computers are here to stay.

As one reviews the literature on computerisation in libraries in Malaysia, one would discover that less than 10 articles have been documented on this aspect. There were bold pioneers who began to show interest in library automation as early as in 1974[1]. However, for various reasons not much was undertaken to arouse the interest of librarians in Malaysia on computer applications in libraries. Nevertheless, the main theme of the 1978 joint Library Association of Singapore and Malaysia (LAS/PPM) Conference which was to promote library automation, had resolved to urge librarians in both countries to take progressive steps in automation and to work towards library networking.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Library automation in Malaysia was initiated by the University Libraries. Since the introduction of MARC II format by the Library of Congress in 1968,[2] computerisation of bibliographic records were being implemented in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world, including developing countries like Malaysia. The first phase of development was initiated as a result of the discussions among five University libraries and the National Library on the feasibility of using MARC tapes for cooperative processing of materials in Malaysia. At this point, enthusiastic librarians contributed a great deal towards automation by undertaking base line studies such as communication systems in Malaysia, standardisation of cataloguing practices, the acquisition overlap and

---

1. National and academic libraries in Malaysia and Singapore. Edited by Lim Huck Tee and Rashidah Begum. Penang: PPM & LAS, 1975.

2. Lee Lau San. "System design for the computerisation of a specialized bibliography on a small computer." Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia 5, 1977 : p.72.

cooperation on book selection, national union catalogue and interlibrary loan services as by products of MARC. I shall not discuss into further detail as to how Malaysian MARC (MALMARC) project got off the ground as this area had been discussed in depth in Wijayasuriya's paper which was presented at the 48th IFLA Conference. With the partial financial assistance provided by Unesco and Stephen Massil's[3] proposals and recommendations, MALMARC feasibility study was conducted in two phases - October 1977 to November 1978 and November 1978 to July 1979. The computer center in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) served as the coordinating centre for this project. Not until July 1979, that an automated cooperative cataloguing system among National Library, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia became operational. This automated cooperative cataloguing system is currently being operated by the MALMARC coordinating centre at the Universiti Sains Malaysia. MALMARC system consists of 3 subsystems - record selection, creation of MARC records and catalogue production which are in COM (Computer Output Microfiche) and computer printout form. Other libraries, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, University of Malaya and Nanyang Technological Institute (Singapore) joined MALMARC system in 1982. The Universiti Utara Malaysia joined as soon as the university was set up in 1984. Output of MALMARC system includes Author/Title/Subject and Union COM catalog, Union serials holdings, Union listing of graduation exercise, thesis and dissertations and monthly accession lists in paper print out.

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS DEVELOPED (1979 TILL DATE)

Automation in libraries in Malaysia is still new. It was only two years after the period of experimentation (MALMARC Experiment) that automated systems were being developed in major libraries. The experimental period; a period when seeds were sown but harvesting was nowhere in sight, provided the much needed impetus towards automation. If we look at appendix 1[4] we would notice that, with the exception of Universiti Sains Malaysia and two other libraries which subscribed to MALMARC system, all the other libraries started computerising parts of their library manual operations in the early 1980s (i.e. between 1981-84).

---

3. Associate Director of the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok in 1974.

4. Data gathered and analysed was based on review of related literature, personal survey and interview conducted between Feb. - April, 1980 and a survey undertaken by Petronas Library.

Present Automated Activities

A review based on related literature and a survey on computer application in libraries in Malaysia indicated the following computer usage:-

Academic Libraries	Automated activities
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	- Acquisition, cataloguing, serials, administration, information retrieval and SDI services, circulation and publication.
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM)	- Cataloguing (MALMARC), information retrieval, publication and indexing.
* Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	- Cataloguing (MALMARC), indexing and publication.
* Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	- Cataloguing.
* Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	- Cataloguing (MALMARC).
* International Islamic University (IIA)	- Serials and administration.
University of Malaya (UM)	- Cataloguing, acquisition, abstracting, publication and administration.
Special libraries	
Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM)	- Online acquisition, cataloguing, abstracting & indexing, serials, information retrieval, circulation, gifts and exchange and project monitoring.
IBM World Trade Corporation	- Acquisition, cataloguing, indexing, information retrieval, circulation and administration.
National Population and Family Planning Unit	- Indexing & abstracting, serials, information retrieval, circulation and publication.

Malaysian Airline System (MAS)	- Cataloguing, indexing, serials, information retrieval and circulation.
Petroleum Nasional (PETRONAS)	- Cataloguing, serials, indexing, audiovisual and information retrieval.
Urban Development Authority (UDA)	- Cataloguing, serials and indexing of newspaper articles.
Forest Research Institute (FRI)	- Indexing, information retrieval, SDI and administration.
Rubber Research Institute (RRI)	- Cataloguing, indexing and abstracting and information retrieval.
Tun Ismail Atomic Research Centre (PUSPATI)	- Indexing, abstracting and information retrieval.
* Implementation Co-ordination Unit (ICU)	- Cataloguing and serials.
* Standard Institute of Research of Malaysia (SIRIM)	- Information retrieval.
* New Straits Time (NST)	- Indexing of newspaper articles.
* Lincoln Resource Center	- Information retrieval (online searching), publication.
Others	
National Library	- Cataloguing (MALMARC), indexing of newspaper articles & journals and Information retrieval.

From the overview of computer usage in libraries in Malaysia, almost 50% of the libraries listed are still at the initial stage of automation (these libraries are marked with an asterisk). Many of these libraries are only automated in single departments. With the exception of International Islamic University, all the other University libraries in Malaysia have automated its cataloguing system either by subscribing to MALMARC or by using in-house programme. Unlike academic libraries, the trend of

automation in special libraries differs a little. There is obvious emphasis on automating the indexing and abstracting of journals in special libraries. The automated processes of indexing and abstracting of journals and newspaper articles and the subject covered is orientated to the objective, mission and needs of its parent organisation. Subjects covered by the various types of libraries are listed in appendix 2.

Degree of Automation in Academic Libraries

In academic libraries priority is given to automating the cataloguing processes not only because the automated cataloguing system had been proven to be cost effective but also due to the backlog of materials to be catalogued. At present, with the exception of Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (which is partly automated), all the other university libraries are still at the planning and discussion phase and ultimately is moving towards an integrated system. Two of the University libraries (Universiti Utara Malaysia and International Islamic University) are at the stage of ordering and acquiring hardwares and softwares.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Library Automation System

The Universiti Sains Malaysia Library started its integrated library information storage and retrieval system by early 1986. The programmes (softwares) used by USM Library includes MALMARC, CAN-SDI, DOBIS-LIBIS and CDS-ISIS. With such programmes, all the process which involves acquisition, cataloguing, serials, IRS, SDI had been automated by using the IBM 4381 mainframe. This library has four microcomputers (16 and 32 bit) which perform indexing, abstracting, publication and administration. A number of databases have been created and developed. These includes MALMARC, [MIDASBIB and MIDASCD][5]; redspot, inventory and personnel.

---

5. MIDAS is the acronymn for Maklumat Industri Dan Sains (Information on Science and Industry). It is a database on trade and commercial information. This database also includes information on new Malaysian bills and materials on science and technology. MIDAS database is anticipated to become a nucleaus for the Universiti Sains Malaysia's participation in a national documentation project.

Degree of Automation in Special Libraries

A survey[6] on computerisation in special libraries undertaken by Petronas revealed the degree of automation as can be clearly seen below:-

Stages of Computer Planning in libraries

No. Plans	50%
Planning stage	28.58%
Initial progress	1.16%
Completed	-

Based on the information and data obtained from the survey conducted by Petronas (updated by a recent survey and interview conducted by the author), it can be analysed that several special libraries like PORIM, RRI, IBM, UDA, MAS, are moving progressively in automation with the ultimate plans toward an integrated information storage and retrieval system. These libraries have almost automated all its library operations from acquisitions right up to information retrieval.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURES AND LIBRARY NETWORKING

An account on the development of computers in libraries in Malaysia since early 1970s until recently, conveyed that automation of library activities tend to operate autonomously. At present, cataloguing network (cooperation) under MALMARC system and the telex linkage between libraries for inter library lending of materials are the only two library network systems implemented in Malaysia. Even then, MALMARC is a batch processing system and it must be emphasised here that all inputs into the MALMARC system are done offline except in the case of inputs for the Universiti Sains Malaysia Library.

With the advent of new communication technologies, interaction within and outside library systems is made possible. The implementation of Public Switched Telex Network (PTXN) by the Telecommunication Department of

---

6. This survey was conducted by Petronas Library on behalf of the PPM (Library Association of Malaysia) Sub-committee on Library automation (SCOLA). It was conducted by the end of 1982 to study the degree of automation in special libraries.

Malaysia which permitted the installation of telex facilities had provided the impetus towards networking among libraries. As future development in library networking are dependent on telecommunication development within the country, it is important that the librarians be aware of the data communication facilities that Telecommunication Department of Malaysia provides. It is therefore necessary here to give a description of such facilities as these can be used to effect the various interactions as required by libraries.

Apparently, there is an increased demand for data communication facilities for short duration and at varying destinations. Leased circuits with the use of interfaced device had already been employed. With such facilities, data could be transmitted at speed up to 9600 bps. Leased circuits too allows several communication channels to be connected thus enabling several devices to communicate simultaneously.

Telephone services provided through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and the configuration of leased circuits with special interface device resulted to the introduction of two new services, namely DATEL and TELEFAX in August 1983. DATEL (Data on telephone line) service facilitates data transmission from connecting computer terminal to host terminal at speeds of 600, 1200 and 2400 bps. Charges are incurred on the line usage and time taken for data transmission. This means that inputing and updating of records in the database can be undertaken online and direct access to databases can be made possible. TELEFAX service, on the other hand, is a regulated service for communication between facsimile terminals. Through TELEFAX, characters, diagrams and other visual images can be conveyed quickly and economically.

The Telecommunication Department of Malaysia offers two other new services - TELITA (an acronym for Telecom, to see, to know) and TELETEX. TELITA is an interactive information retrieval and dissemination system that allows various computer terminals in various organizations and bodies to have access to computer centres. TELETEX, is a text communication service which offers faster and more economical means of preparing and distributing text.

By the end of 1984, due to increased demands of users with specific and complex requirements, Telecommunication Department of Malaysia implemented the Malaysian Packet Switching Network (MAYPAC). MAYPAC is a public data network based on packet switching technology which provides users with a more reliable and economical means of meeting their data communication requirements. Access to MAYPAC is by dial-up access over the PSTN. Through Packet Switching,

libraries began to have access to large international databases such as LOCKHEED, DIALOG, BRS and several other databases especially in the United States.

The innovations in telecommunication infrastructures outlined earlier can be used by libraries in providing better and efficient services. It was mentioned earlier that libraries in Malaysian have taken the advantage afforded by such facilities. The present and future use of telecommunication infrastructures afforded can be summarised as follows:-

1. Over PTXN, various libraries are connected by telex to facilitate ILL and improve communication between them.

2. With the commissioning of MAYPAC, several libraries (USM, UPM, Lincoln, PORIM and National Library) have access to international databases making online retrieval services available.

3. With DATEL services and appropriate charges levied, direct access to MALMARC databases could be made possible. This would also mean that inputing and updating of record in the database can be undertaken online.

ONLINE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SERVICES

With increasing demand for timely flow of information, online retrieval services have emerged. New communication technologies, cheaper services and easier softwares and interfaces have made way for libraries in Malaysia to provide online information retrieval services via MAYPAC (Fig.1) to access international databases. Though online information retrieval services was made commercially available as early as in the 1970s, this service appears to be a new reference service offered by very few libraries in Malaysia namely, USM, UPM, PORIM, National Library of Malaysia, and IBM World Trade Corporation Library.

Online information retrieval services in libraries in Malaysia started in late 1985 (since August 1985). These libraries, with the exception of IBM library, subscribe to DIALOG databases. It is interesting to note that IBM library started online search service as early as 1983 and has access to System Library Subscription Service (SLSS), Branch Office Information System (BOIS) and publication order. IBM library has direct access to SLSS, BOIS and publication order databases through international lines. These databases have actually been created at the IBM headquarters in Toronto, Canada. At present, the loading of data into the database is carried out daily by IBM library in Malaysia.

Online Search Practice

Online searches conducted by libraries in Malaysia are generally retrospective and comprehensive type of searches. On top of that, ICU, UPM, USM libraries provide selective (SDI) search. The SDI search done by UPM is based on AGRIS database which is housed locally while that of USM is based on MIDAS database. Lincoln, CPU and National Library provides ready reference search apart from retrospective search.

It should be clearly understood that online services are rendered by libaries in Malaysia to supplement reference enquiries and unless necessary. Users of the online services, the cost incurred and databases frequently used by libraries in Malaysia is summarised below:-

Libraries	Users	Cost	Databases accessed frequently
USM	Teaching & research staff, students	US$3.00 for 20 min search. Overhead cost is incurred upon the library.	ERIC, Social Sc. PAIS etc.
UPM	----do----	Based on call charges, computer connect time, down loading offline & display	Agricultural databases, ERIC Agricola and many others listed in Dialog service
Lincoln Resource Center	Faculty members & government officers.	Free	More social sciences databases Non-bibliographic databases - Thomas Register, Who's Who etc.
National Library	Government departments and public	Free	ERIC, magazine index, PAIS and others listed in Dialog
IBM	Marketing representative, system engineers, managers and administrative staff	Free	HQ library inventory, BOIS SLSS & publication order.

A common trend among some of the libraries that provide online services is that, searches undertaken are captured for future use and transactions made are systematically recorded. Searches conducted extend from social sciences to more technical major databases to meet the timely and specific information needs of patrons. A number of these libraries (UPM and USM) have realised how essential it is to ensure maximum benefit from any online service. For such purposes, software packages like Crosstalk that communicate with online services have been acquired by these libraries.

In Malaysia, the use of online retrieval services will continue to grow. Special libraries like PORIM, RRI and Puspati are planning to subscribe to international databases. PUSPATI Library is looking into the feasibility of having online connection with INIS database. At present, search requests are sent by post to INIS databases in Vienna. Generally, response to online search services have been very encouraging. In USM alone, since the library started its online services in September 1985 till date, approximately 200 searches were undertaken. There are libraries planning to subscribe to other online systems, some of which mentioned would be SDS, BRS and CA. UPM hopes to be connected directly to Chemical Abstracts databases for more gratifying results.

Libraries in Malaysia should be aware of the other non-bibliographic databases or data banks that contain textual data which are usually statistical or numeric. These numeric data may be manipulated online to produce customised tables, graphs, ratio and others to suit the need of specific end users i.e. statisticians, economists, chemists and other professionals. Other types of databases that libraries in Malaysia should consider having access to is the full text databases (LEXIS, WESTLAW, etc.) and newspaper databases (NDEX and NEXIS). Nevertheless, with the numerous types of databases made available, libraries in Malaysia should give careful thought to the way online services are presented and intergrated into existing organisations.

PROBLEMS

Though very recently it was announced that Malaysia is the fourth largest user of computer in the Asian region, there is a rather low level of computer usage in libraries in Malaysia. It is simply because problems and difficult situations exist in computerisation exercise and libraries in Malaysia too share some of the common problems that libraries in developing countries encounter in automating library operations.

The question of 'cost' has long prevailed. Computer systems are not cheap. Ideally, libraries in Malaysia which are planning for an integrated system would want to utilize the computer system for all its activities. Unfortunately, budget constraints and lack of professional expertise have limited libraries to concentrate on mainly information retrieval. Though microcomputers are used to perform part of library functions like indexing and abstracting, present technology does not provide for most microcomputers to grow with the organisation. In many cases, libraries like UPM, UKM and UTM which have made earlier analysis and plans to automate could not go ahead due to the lack of financial support from their parent organisation to install a mini or mainframe to perform solely library functions. In some libraries, automation have been made possible by sharing the mainframe with other departments in the organisation. Obviously there was no way to avoid time sharing and the problems that goes along with it, thus slowing the process of information storage and retrieval.

There were librarians expressing the fact that while selection for acquiring computer and software systems is important, there should also be adequate technical support staff locally. Software programmes from advanced countries for IRS that are existing do not have available expertise or local support to correct the malfunctions that might occur. Libraries in Malaysia still depend on expertise from abroad or have to send their own librarians for training overseas. These involves cost which appears to be a real problem in many developing countries.

Problems in networking among libraries in Malaysia is evident. The idea of networking was initiated when MALMARC project came to'life' and benefits accruing from this project have already been proven successful. However, networking among libraries can be hindered due to various reasons. Inspite of the existing telecommunication development, very often, due to unfamiliar administrative functions and unwillingness to cooperate among libraries, combined efforts towards networking becomes virtually impossible. This can also be due to various political and administrative factors/dissimilarities within each organisation.

We have earlier examined the types of hardwares and softwares that various libraries have. Being aware of such diversities and different databases which each library had created and maintained, linkages between different systems may be quite a problem. To make interlinkages between computer systems possible, not only sophisticated softwares and inferface equipment need to be developed, but some systems need to abide by the ANSI and CCITT standards.

FUTURE PLANS

Despite complexities and obstacles confronting library computerisation efforts, it is a challenge to be innovative and avoidance to computerisation is never a solution to a situation.[7] There are libraries in Malaysia which are taking positive steps towards automation. Libraries like UIA, UTM, UKM, UUM, Bank Negara Malaysia and National Library are working towards using an information storage and retrieval software package that operates on a Mini system. Libraries that have automate a part of its library operations have plans to automate module after module with the ultimate aim of developing an integrated library system network.

A few librarians that were interviewed expressed their intention to have linkages from the Central library to other departmental/branch libraries. This is true in the case of MAS, RRI and National library.Creation of bibliographic database is not a new activity for libraries in Malaysia. We have seen earlier that there are libraries doing indexing and abstracting of journals in specific areas and fields that are related. The inputing of bibliographic record in these libraries is with the intention of creating databases on specialised areas. Several libraries that plan to create databases are shown below:-

Libraries		**Databases**
SIRIM	-	Standards and industrial information database
PORIM	-	Palm oil database
UPM	-	Malaysian Agricultural database
National Library	-	Malaysian National Bibliography database
MAS	-	Management information system database
Petronas	-	Petroleum, energy.
PUSPATI	-	Bibliographic and non biblio -graphic database on nuclear Science.

---

7. Ahmad Zaini Ahmad Shaarani. "Utilization of technology in library and information centers." Seminar mengenai Dasar Kebangsaan bagi Perpustakaan dan Perkhidmatan Maklumat, Petaling Jaya, Oct. 1984, p. 30.

Libaraies	Databases already created
USM	MIDASBIB, MIDASCO, MALMARC database, Malaysia National Bibliography. (active preparations underway) PERPUNET (union serial holding) database.
RRI	Database on natural rubber
UPM	AGRIS database
IBM	HQ library inventory, SLSS and literature orders.
FRI	Index to Malaysia Forester.

Some libraries in Malaysia provide automated SDI services. Automated SDI services have been provided by USM and UPM since early 1980s. There are libraries which have plans to cater for automated SDI services in the near future among which includes, the Population and Family Planning Unit library and PORIM library.

Computerisation in libraries in Malaysia was basically undertaken by individual libraries. Like Singapore, libraries in Malaysia too are considering to transform individual efforts into national efforts. Libraries in Malaysia have expressed the idea of nationwide networking and this can be traced with the setting up of the PPM Sub Committee on Library Automation (SCOLA) in 1981. Unfortunately, SCOLA had been dissolved and taken over by the Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan Pengkalan Data Berkomputer, a National committee on computerised database. This committee is supposed to handle on the basis of trying to work out a plan to act as a bureau to help fellow libraries toward automation. Members of this committee met for the first time on the 17th February 1986. Discussions made during the meeting indicated that the planning stage towards data communication among libraries in Malaysia is on its way. This committee is finding out the possibilities as to how data communicaton could work out for networking among libraries in Malaysia. Questionnaires have been recently sent out to gather information on automation and the databases that have been created in libraries in Malaysia.We have seen efforts undertaken by libraries to design and construct computerised databases for various subject areas. However, to promote linkage of computer systems into network systems locally and abroad would depend greatly on telecommunication infrastructures and facilities. The

setting up of integrated library automated systems based on network configuration enabling computer systems within MARLIN[8] to "talk" to one another would be like a dream come true. It is also not too optimistic to state here that with the formation of local area network, the focus in the near future will be that of the access of our own databases by individuals and institutions abroad.

---

8. Wijayasuriya, D.E.K. and Adeline Leong. "A preliminary approach to library networking in Malaysia." Paper presented at the 48th IFLA General Conference, Montreal 22-28 August, 1982. pg.12.

REFERENCES

1. Ahmad Zaini Ahmad Shaarani. " Utilisation of technology in library and information centres". Seminar mengenai Dasar Kebangsaan bagi Perpustakaan dan Perkhidmatan Maklumat, 29-31hb. Okt. 1984, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

2. Aw, Shirley. "Online search services: possibilities and strategies for Special Libraries providing electronic research". Singapore Libraries 15:21-26, 1985.

3. Ding Choo Ming. "Access to serials in Southeast Asia". Libri 35(4):298-319,1985.

4. Hochstadt, Peggy Wai-Chee, Jill Quah and Ong Gim Hong. "Towards an online integrated system at the National University of Singapore Library". Singapore Libraries 12:43-54, 1982.

5. Lee San Lau. "Systems design for the computerisation of a specialised bibliography on a small computer". Singapore Libraries 5:72-97, 1977.

6. Lim Hong Too. "The development of automated library systems in Singapore". Singapore Libraries 14:9-12, 1984.

7. Lim Huat Seng. "Computer application to library circulation control". Majallah Perpustakaan Malaysia 4:60-73, 1976.

8. Lim Huck Tee. "The Malaysian MARC (MALMARC) Project". Program 14(3):101-120, 1980.

9. Md. Radzi Mansor. "The telecommunication infrastructure in Malaysia for data communication and library utilisation". Seminar mengenai Dasar Kebangsaan bagi perpustakaan dan Perkhidmatam Maklumat, 29-31hb. Okt.,1984, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

10. National and Academic Libraries in Malaysia and Singapore. Edited by Lim Huck Tee and Rashidah Begum. Penang :PPM & LAS, 1975.

11. New information technology edited by Alan Burns. Chichester: Ellis Horwood, 1984.

12. Palmer, Roger C. Online reference and information retrieval. Littleton, Colorado : Libraries Unlimited, 1983.

13. Sabaratnam, Selvarani and Caroline Phuah Choon Kheng. "Online Circulation control at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Library". Singapore Libraries 13:19-20,1983 .

14. Wan Lye Tim. "The computer and its applications to Research". Singapore Libraries 11:50-55,1981.

15. Wijayasuriya, D.E.K. and Adeline Leong. "A preliminary approach to library networking in Malaysia". 48th IFLA General Conference, Montreal, 22-24 Aug.,1982.

16. Yoke Lan Wicks. "The development of SINGMARC and information retrieval in Singapore". Workshop on ASEAN, Australia Resource Sharing in Information Retrieval and MARC, Sydney, 16-20 Aug.,1982.

17. Zaleha Tamby. "Databases available in Southeast Asian Studies". Singapore Libraries 11, 1981:57-61.

Appendix 1

Libraries	Year Automation Started	Computer Type	Programme Used
Universiti Sains Malaysia	1976	IBM 4381 4 4 micro-computers (16/32 bit)	MALMARC/CAN -SDI DOBIS-LIBIS CDS-ISIS
Rubber Research Institute	1978	HP 3000 Series 44	NR-BLISS in-house programme
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia	1979	UNWAC IBM PC 80 (hard disk 1512K) 3 micro-computers	In-house programme
National Library	1979	HP 3000 TRS 80 120MB Radioshack	MINISIS & In-house programme
Urban Development	1980	ICL	In-house programme
National Population & Family Planning Unit	1981	NEC 250/60 (1/5 MB) IBM	In-house programme
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	1982 (sub-scribe to MALMARC)	IBM PC (16 MB)	Wordstar DBase III
University of Malaya	1982 (sub-scribe to MALMARC)	IBM PC 80	
IBM World Trade Corporation	1983	IBM	STAIRS, VM/ CMS
Malaysian Airline System	1983	IBM 3278	Modified IBM

Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia	1983	HP 3000 series 40	MINISIS
Petroliam Nasional PETRONAS	1983	HP3000	MINISIS
Tun Ismail Atomic Research Institute	1984	WICAT 155 supermicro 28 MB	In-house production
Forest Research Institute	1985	IBM PC Compatible	DBase III Wordstar CDS/ISIS
Standard Institute of Research of Malaysia	1986	HP 3000 series 48	MINISIS
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	-	IBM VSAM	In-house production
Kompleks Kewangan Malaysia Berhad		HP 3000	In-house production
ESSO	-	CSA-Digital VT 100	In-house production
International Islamic University	-	2 micro-computers	
Implementation Coordination Unit	-	IBM 4043 IBM 3032	STAIRS/CMS

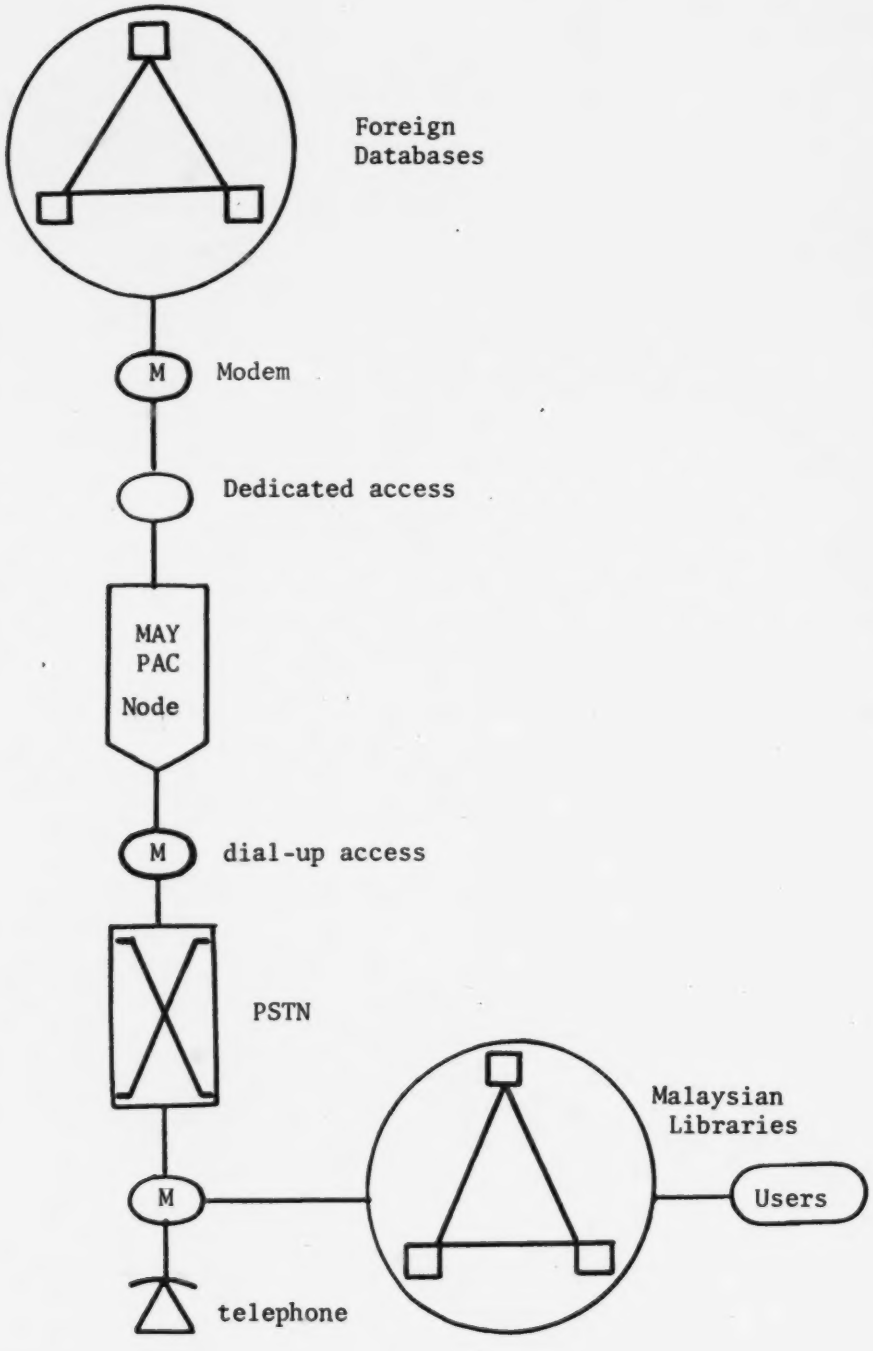
Appendix 2

Libraries		Subject indexed
National Library	-	General
National Population Family Planning Board	-	Family planning & development
Palm Oil Research Institute	-	Palm oil & related subjects
Petroliam Nasional (PETRONAS)	-	Energy, oil, gas & related subjects
Malaysian Airline System	-	Management
Rubber Research Institute	-	Natural rubber, agriculture
Urban Development Authority	-	Urbanization
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	-	South East Asia
Universiti Sains Malaysia	-	Business & industry

0876

Figure 1

Access to international databases
via MAYPAC



0877

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

1986

Division: DIVISION OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section: REGIONAL SECTION FOR ASIA & OCEANIA

166-ASIA-3-E

"THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF OPTICAL DISC TECHNOLOGY FOR LIBRARY APPLICATION"

BY DR. SENRI MIYAOKA

MIPS GP SONY CORPORATION

KEYWORD(S):

OPTICAL DISC
DRAW
OPTO-MAGNETO DISC
VIDEO DISC
RETRIEVAL
LIBRARIAN .

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

140? or open meeting

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

The Present and Future of Optical Disc Technology for Library Application

by

Dr. Senri Miyaoka

Introduction

We are seeing the beginnings of a change in the way we store and retrieve information which is more momentous than the change from clay tablets to bound books. We are seeing the dawning of the age of the optical disc, which promises the storage of huge amounts of information in a very compact space and very rapid retrieval - almost instantaneous in some cases. The optical disc in fact promises to revolutionize our notion of the function of a library.

Society has for some years struggled to come to grips with the information explosion. Technology has conspired to encourage the proliferation of data through computers which can analyze relationships in seconds that no one without a computer would think of attempting; high-speed printers churn out huge data banks at the press of a button, printing both from left to right and from right to left as they run down the page; word processors allow writers to go through endless drafts with little effort, their manuscripts growing larger every draft. There has been an enormous burden on libraries to categorize all this material, to sort the meaningful from the ephemeral, to make it available to those who need it when they need it, and all within a reasonable budget. The vision of government departments administering miles of files, with file clerks on roller skates, verges on the ridiculous, and to make matters worse, on top of these problems of scale, the book itself as a shelf of bound pages has shown that it is exceedingly vulnerable to the passage of time: the world's libraries are crumbling away.

2. Optical Disc

The optical disc may offer a partial solution to these problems. The optical disc is a disc 90mm to 360mm in diameter on which digital data is recorded by a laser beam.

There are three kinds of optical discs, each especially suited for particular applications. The read-only disc, such as the video disc and compact audio discs which are now commercially available, is used for information to be made available in volume to many consumers. Future publishers may use read-only discs to make available materials now sold in bookstores as "trade books". Textbooks might also be produced on read-only discs and made available to libraries and individual students. The implications of read-only discs for the future of publishing are far-ranging, as these discs eliminate at a stroke publishers problems of warehousing and shipping bulky books.

The second type of optical disc is the so-called "write once and read many" disc. This type will be used to store materials already in existing archives, and will be the disc most used by libraries until electronic publishing is firmly established. An operator will use a scanner to put existing materials on discs, each scanner being capable of inputting roughly fifty books a day. We do not have reliable data on how long the "write once and read many" disc will hold the material written on it, but preliminary tests suggest that it will be at least thirty years. Some applications that come to mind are patent applications and income tax returns, which are now processed in tremendous volume but must be easily retrieved.

At this stage manufacturers are proposing various configurations for the "write once and read many" disc, but a typical structure is shown in Fig. 1. The recording layer is sandwiched between two metal plates and the whole covered by a protective layer. A laser beam focuses on the recording layer to heat the beam spot until it rurns to metal alloy. The beam spots create sub-micron area 900A deep and 0.6um in diameter. These area are read by the playback laser beam. This technology allows extremely high density packaging of information. The complete Encyclopedia Britannica of twenty-three volumes, each of a thousand double-column printed pages, can be stored two times on an optical disc 300mm in diameter, with room to spare.

The optical disc must be incorporated into a library system, and this will require a careful analysis of how the materials in the library are used. Archival materials should be stored quite differently from materials which will be subject to frequent consultation, and the system should also recognize that some materials will be consulted frequently for a period of , than pass into relative disuse. The three types of optical disc can be fitted to each of these applications.

The last type of optical disc is the "write and read erasable" disc. This type of disc lends itself to information which has a relatively short lifetime: library records, newsletters, administrative data, and research data. When there is no longer a need for a particular document, it can be erased and the space used for another document. Again, the advantages are a very high recording density -- all day-to-day administrative data could easily be stored on a single disc -- and on a single disc, retrieval would be essentially instantaneous.

3. The Reliability of Optical Disc

The optical disc is a highly reliable storage medium because the recording layer is accessed without any mechanical contact and because the recording layer is protected by policarbonate. Because the information of the disc is in digital form it can never fade, and moreover it can be reproduced without any degradation. The data is not affected by dust or scratches on the surface of the disc because the reading beam is not focused on the surface. (It is for this same reason that a speck of dust on the lens of a camera.) The disc is very stable, particularly the type of disc in which the two metal plates on either side of the recording layer are in contact with each other, and it is unlikely to warp. For these reasons the discs do not have to be handled with great caution. Maintenance is not likely to be an undue problem.

In addition, there will surely be applications for which microfilm is particularly suited because rapid retrieval is not a consideration, and it is quite clear that the book itself will endure as a format for certain kinds of information and certainly as a medium for reading for pleasure. The all-purpose library will always contain books for the general reader as well as continuing its role as repository of the classic, well-printed volumes which encapsulate the history of man's thought.

The integration of the optical disc into the state-of-the-art library system of the next century will mean that there will be a freeing of space and manpower which has hitherto been engaged in maintaining the archival functions of the library. In concrete terms, a library with the equivalent of a million volumes of archival materials could, if this material were transferred to optical discs -- it would take about three thousand optical discs to do it -- would take up no more space than two tennis courts. The three thousand discs would be stored in sixty so-called juke boxes as illustrated in Fig. 2. The ration of the space required by a bound book to the space required for an optical disc containing the same amount of information is 100 to 1. Not only would a great amount of space be freed which could be devoted to more spacious and comfortable reading rooms, more extensive special collections, and perhaps even facilities for cultural events, exhibitions, and classrooms, but staff would be freed from the need to respond to call slips and reshelving duties. We can assume that users would respond favourably to the greater ease of retrieval and the sure knowledge that they could consult material even if it were being consulted simultaneously by many other people.

4. The Design of Optical Disc Library

In this system, indexes to material on optical discs will be written either on a magnetic hard disc or an optical disc (erasable optical disc). The main computer will store these indexes, which will be author, title, and subject, as well as a keyword index for technical materials. The Library of Congress has already put their index on hard disc and made it available to any library or individual at a very reasonable cost. The index is called LC MARC, for Library of Congress Machine Readable Catalog.

In addition, there may be a way to harness artificial-intelligence technology in such a way that a user could enter into a dialog with the indexing computer and be lead by question and answer to areas of interest which may not have occurred to the reader. This would be an equivalent to the informed browsing which experienced users of open-stack libraries consider such an advantage.

Through interaction with the indexing computer, a list of sources is displayed of the user's monitor. The user selects the sources he wants to examine in detail and a code instructs the retrieval mechanism which document on which disc in which juke box has been requested. The documents is then displayed on the monitor screen and can be printed out if desired. With this printing out we are back to the printed document again, of course, but with the difference that we have been able to retrieve the document within seconds and the original document itself has not been subjected to the gross indignity of handling by human hands.

Figure 3 shows the configuration of the optical-disc system.

It is interesting to contemplate the impact a system of information handling which includes the optical disc will have on education, social administration, and research.

To the extent that technical and intellectual progress depends on free access to information, we can expect a ferment of new ideas from the many more people who will enter the enquiry process than is possible in an era in which libraries are perceived to some extent as distant temples of wisdom far removed from everyday concerns.

If two encyclopedias can be stored on a single disc, the entire Library of Congress catalog on another, and every textbook currently in use at the University of California, Berkeley, on two more, and the entire set of these several discs be made available at a knockdown price at the local supermarket for taking home and slipping into the home playback system, every home becomes a university with a library as big as the biggest in the world. Through local area networks it should be possible to access any book anywhere at any time, because all libraries will be open to each other, as they will be open, twenty-four hours a day, to readers who never need leave their homes.

The historical distinction between cities as places of commerce and research and rural areas as gardens of quiet contemplation undisturbed by the ebb and flow of news will be broken down, as networks will mean that anyone anywhere will have access to the latest bio-chemical research data as well as be able to call up on his home screen the first edition of <u>unalysses</u>.

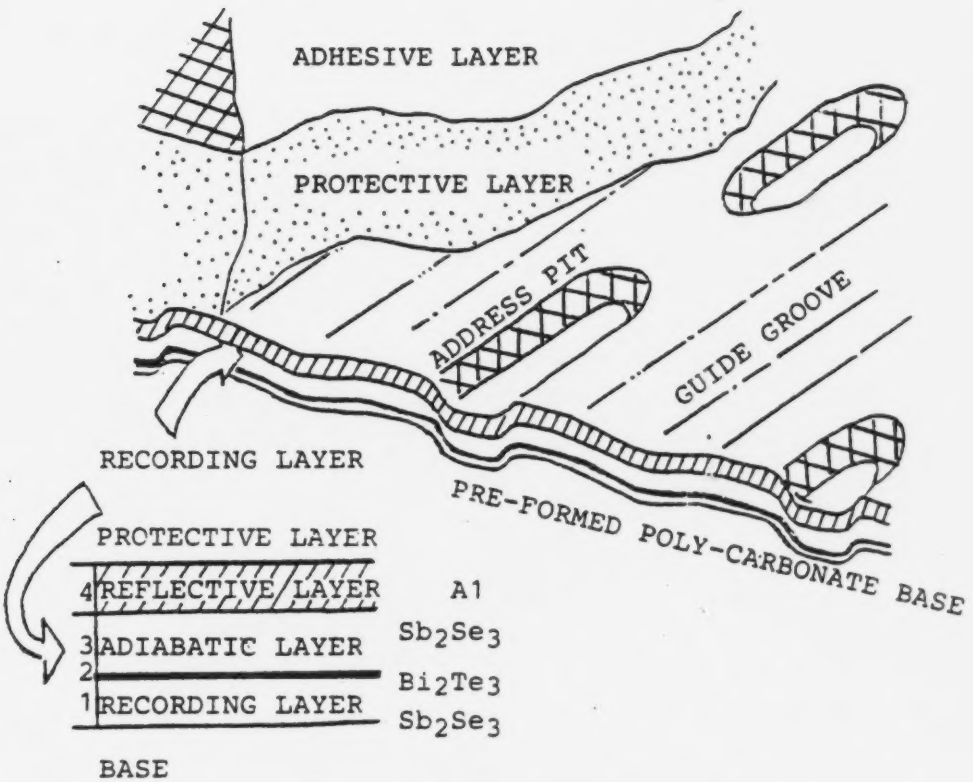
Might we not eventually even come to see the library as we know it, a local repository of books which printed elsewhere, fade away,

as an electronic publishing industry notifies potential readers of its latest offerings on indexes updated daily, and authors are compensated through an elaborate copyright system when reader calls their material up on his home screen.

Conclusion

The vision of the New Electronic Library has resonances of a Brave New World, with information centrally controlled, but if the system were kept open to readers at least to the extent that libraries and bookstores are now there should be little to worry about. The one great change in the way information is made available now and the way it might be made available when the optical disc becomes fully utilized is that it will be much cheaper to publish. That this may mean that a great many more books of questionable worth will be published than now is a chance that we will have to take.

At any rate, in order to keep our perspective in the face of the advance of a technology rife with implications, it is salutary to remember that on the beach, on a summer afternoon with a cool breeze blowing in from the ocean, it is highly unlikely that anything will ever be found to beat the book.



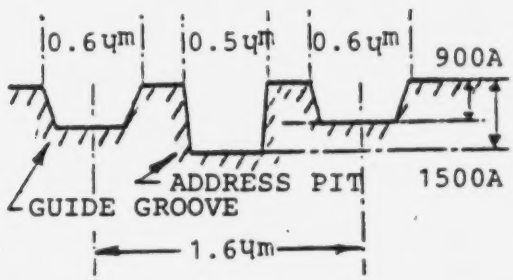


FIG 1

THE CROSSECTION OF WRITE ONCE AND READ MANY

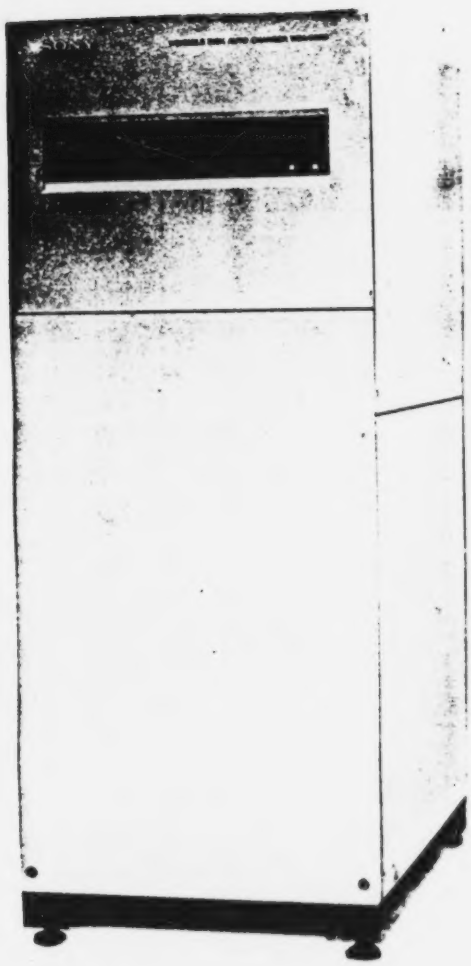


FIG 2 ILLUSTRATION OF JUKE BOX

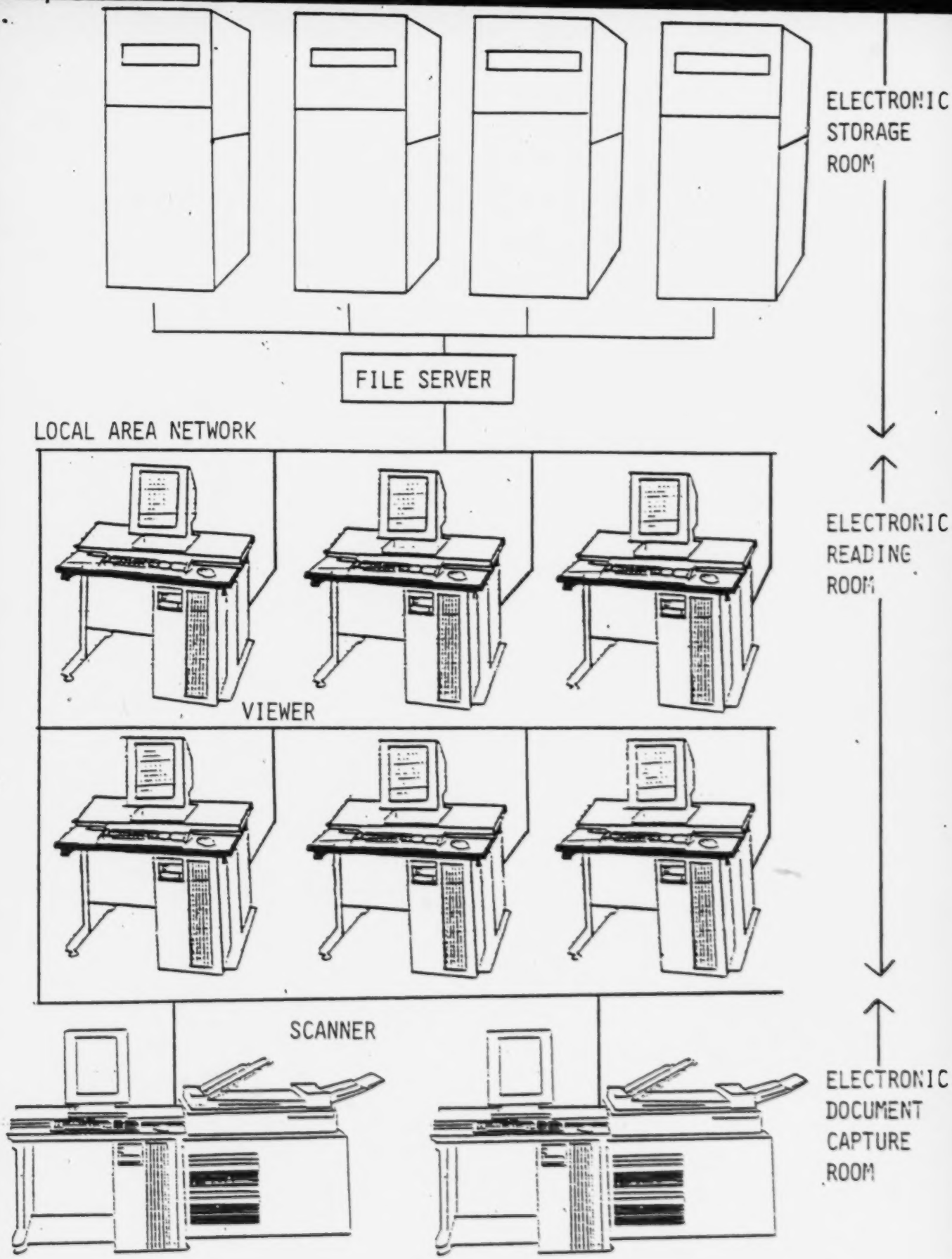


FIG 3 ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM DISEGN

MEDIA	VOLUME (cm^3)	RELATIVE VOLUME
Book (Paper)	20 X 28 x 300 = 1.8×10^5 (thickness of 40,000 page equal 300 cm)	100
Hard Disk (Drive)	14.6 x 8.3 x 20.3 x 22 = 5.6×10^4 (22 units of 150 Megabytes Disk)	35
Floppy Disk (3.5" Micro)	9 x 9.3 x 0.3 x 1640 = 4.1×10^4 (1640 sheets of 2 Megabytes floppy disk)	25
Magnetic Tape (with cover)	14.5 x 14.5 x 3.14 x 2.9 x 82=2.3×10^5 (82 reels of 40 Megabyte Tape)	130
Optical Disk (With Cady)	32.5 X 34.5 x 1.5 = 1.8×10^3 (3.28 Gigabyte Optical 1 Sheet)	1

Fig. 4 THE COMPARISON CHART OF 40,000 A4 or LETTER SIZE PHYSICAL VOLUME.

FIFTY-SECOND
IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO
1986

Division: DIVISION OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section: REGIONAL SECTION FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA

181-ASIA-4-E

HALF DAY SEMINAR ON PROSPECTS FOR ASIAN LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

THE ASIAN FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

THE PROMISE IT HOLDS FOR REGIONAL CONSOLIDATION AND INTERACTION WITH IFLA

By

J.S. SOOSAI

KEYWORD(S):

AFLA

REGIONAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

67

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

4073

THE ASIAN FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS:

THE PROMISE IT HOLDS FOR REGIONAL CONSOLIDATION AND INTERACTION WITH IFLA

by

J.S. Soosai*

Librarian

Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia

Introduction

This paper traces the early efforts to establish the Asian Federation of Library Association and summarises some of the salient developments in regional and international library co-operation to facilitate library development in third world countries in the past two decades.

. Recommends the re-establishment of AFLA as a regional partner of IFLA working towards the common cause for the advancement of librarianship in the third world. IFLA's present structure of regional development programme is examined and major constraints identified. A completely new international infrastructure for libraries and information science is recommended.

The idea to establish an Asian Federation of Library Associations is not new. As early as 1955, during a UNESCO seminar held in Delhi

---

*The author is also the Chairman of the IFLA Regional Section for Asia and Oceania.

4074

on the development of public libraries, the idea was first mooted to form a Federation of Library Associations in the Asian Region. An overwhelming consensus was expressed at the meeting favouring the establishment of an all Asian organisation that will bring the libraries and library associations in the region closer, and provide a much needed regional forum to discuss and share mutual problems of library development in the countries of the Region. An interim committee to draw up a draft constitution for AFLA was established. Just two years later in 1957, the Asian Federation of Library Association was formally inaugurated in Tokyo by Mr Tokujiro Kanamori, the then Chief Librarian of the National Diet Library at a conference organised by the Japan Library Association. No less than twelve countries were represented in the conference, including Ceylon, Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaya, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Hongkong with a solitary observer from Iran.

It is interesting to note that even as early as some thirty years ago the need was recognised for an Asian Federation of Library Associations, primarily to foster a closer co-operation and understanding between library associations and libraries in the region and to give Asian librarianship an identity of its own. If the attempt to establish AFLA at that time was not successful, it is not because it lacked regional appeal or a professional commitment from the countries in the region. It was perhaps due to the fact that the Federation was mooted at a time when the countries in the region were not quite prepared as yet for international participation. AFLA was born a "premature baby" for its significance to be fully appreciated

and accepted by the countries in the region. The birth of AFLA in 1957 has also been referred to as a "still born child" by Herman Liebaers, perhaps because the fan-fare of its birth did not quite live up to its expectations.

An essential pre-requisite for the success of a regional library association, especially one as ambitious as AFLA on a continental scale would be the level of development and maturity attained by the profession in the region, and the extent to which the national professional infrastructure has been developed. One will not be interested to look beyond national frontiers in search for solutions to national problems unless the library profession is well established in one's own country, and has reached a level of maturity to effectively participate in any regional efforts to consolidate and improve the profession.

The 1950s can best be described as the development decade of Asian librarianship. There were only about seven out of the forty-five countries in the region which had library associations that were established prior to 1950. Of these, three of the Associations were in developed countries in the region with Japan being the earliest established in 1892. The oldest library associations among the developing countries in Asia is the Philippines which was established in 1923, followed by India a decade later in 1933.

The post war years were a period of relative inactivity with many of the countries being pre-occupied with their struggle for independence from their colonial masters. It was only after the

4076

shackles of colonialism were shed by many of the countries in the region that national aspirations rose to new heights and a new professional zeal gained expression in many of the countries. It is not surprising therefore that the 1950s were very much characterised as the formative years of the library profession in Asia and witnessed a new awakening of the library profession in several countries of the region. As many as eight national library associations were established in that decade in Asia with another twelve associations established between 1960 and 1980. There are still as many as about fifteen countries in the region, some of them very affluent countries, who have not found the need to establish a National Library Association.

Against this back drop, it is not difficult to understand why the AFLA established in 1957 did not succeed. The region was ill-prepared for such an organisation and it was inopportune considering the fact that the majority of the developing countries in the region were still in their embryo stage of development of the profession.

As a contrast to the abortive attempt of 1957 to form AFLA, a few regional library associations on a less ambitious scale covering a lesser number of countries came into existence in the late sixties and early seventies. It was a period when the younger library professions in some of the developing countries in the region felt the need to look beyong national frontiers for solutions to their many challenging problems. The sharing of experiences and the pooling of regional resources to their optimum advantage gained wide appeal. Newer pathways for a fuller and more effective role of librarians consonant with national and regional needs and aspirations gained expression.

Members of the library profession in countries that were linked by common bonds of economic, political, cultural or even professional interests took full advantage of their close relations to foster the establishment of multi-national library associations or groupings. Typical of this trend in S.E. Asia was the holding of the first conference of S.E. Asian Librarians (CONSAL) in Singapore in 1970 which brought together librarians from seven South East Asian countries. Today CONSAL has earned its rightful place as a successful regional library association in S.E. Asia. Another multinational library association based on political affinity is the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) that was established in London in 1971 and brought together the library profession in all the Commonwealth countries. Based more on professional interest is the International Association of Orientalist Librarian (IAOL) which was established in 1967 at the 28th International Congress of Orientalists, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The organisation was primarily meant to act as a forum for orientalist librarians from all parts of the world who had interest in research resources for Oriental studies. The implied regional interest of the organisation attracted many librarians and libraries in Asia among its membership. There are perhaps other regional groupings in Asia which are likewise contributing in one way or another towards regional library co-operation and consolidation.

In keeping with this trend, the 37th IFLA General Council meeting held in Liverpool in 1971 was an unprecedented effort on the part of IFLA to bring as many librarians from developing countries to participate in the International Forum represented by the Federation.

The first so called "Pre-Session" Seminar was organised for third world countries at Liverpool. It was in many ways a culmination of international library co-operation and was an important milestone in IFLA's history especially in its renewed relationship with third world countries. The positive steps taken by IFLA at the conference to strengthen its professional bonds with the third world countries brought about a renewed interest from the third world countries in IFLA. IFLA emerged more confident than ever before that the developing countries would respond positively to bring their many and challenging problems to the International Forums.

The membership from developing countries in IFLA has increased appreciably since the Liverpool Conference and the latest statistics indicate that IFLA has 1166 members in 123 countries, of which 83 belong to the developing regions. Of this, 21 countries in Asia are presently national members of IFLA. There are some 194 members in all, including national, institutional and personal affiliates distributed in about 27 countries in Asia. One needs to note that there are still some 20 countries in the region where IFLA has no members. The IFLA program for developing countries has been enshrined in the Division of Regional Activities which has three regional sections covering Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and Oceania. IFLA maintains a Regional Office and a clearing house for its publications in the respective regions at Dakar, Caracas and Kuala Lumpur. IFLA's commitment to the developing countries is even further entrenched by acknowledging the "Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World Countries" as one of its six core programmes.

4079

We are today witnessing an unprecedented thrust at the international, regional and national levels towards library and information development in all its facets in many of the third world countries. A marked interest particularly among third world countries in international and regional library organisations is clearly discernable. IFLA, on the other hand, is hard pressed, with its vastly increased membership, particularly from the third world countries, to effectively respond to the needs and aspirations of the younger library professions. Lack of financial resources and the high cost of participation at IFLA meetings has made it virtually impossible for many of the third world countries to be represented at IFLA meetings.

The Pre-Session Seminars, as well as IFLA's move to hold its conferences in different centres of the developing regions in Asia and Africa have no doubt helped to make IFLA better known to more third world librarians. However, active participation in the various professional sections and even on the Executive Board is being continuously hampered by the lack of adequate financial resources.

The traditional sources of funding for the IFLA program on regional development are becoming more selective and restrictive in their funding policies. The limited financial resources at IFLA's disposal is proving to be a detrimental factor in its pursuit of the regional development program, not to mention the cost of implementing the IFLA core program on the advancement of librarianship in third world countries.

If I have somewhat digressed from the original theme of this paper, it is just to highlight some of the salient developments and critical problems in regional and international librarianship in the past few decades. You will no doubt appreciate that there is an encouraging trend towards regional and international co-operation in library development with particular emphasis on third world countries. This augurs well for the future.

Today we appear to be on the threshold of yet another major development in Asia, that could spur international librarianship to new heights of attainment. I am here referring to the "rebirth" of the Asian Federation of Library Association (AFLA) which has been in "suspended hybernation" for a period of almost thirty years. The re-establishment of AFLA is primarily to provide Asian librarianship with its own forum and identity and establish a symbiotic relationship with IFLA as its regional partner in the pursuit of common objectives. Given the co-operation and support of most of the countries in the region, as well as the blessing of IFLA, there is every reason to feel confident that this will bring about a much needed rationalisation of the international infrastructure for library co-operation and development as far as Asia is concerned. The magnitude of the problem in trying to establish a regional library organisation on such a continental scale is not in anyway being underestimated. The diverse political, economic and cultural and linguistic background of the countries and the wide disparity in the standards of library development among the countries in the region will no doubt prove a formidable undertaking to make AFLA an effective and viable organisation. However, there are more reasons for

librarians and professional library associations in Asia to come together in an Asian forum and share their experiences for their own mutual benefit, then there are reasons to keep them apart. The present international outlook of the library professions in the region as well as the present trend in IFLA to develop and strengthen her regional ties, there are much better prospects for success of such a regional organisation now than at any time in the past.

The phenomenal growth of membership from the developing countries coupled with the perennial problem of finding adequate funds to support the IFLA regional development program calls for a re-examination of the present structure of the regional development program in IFLA. The time has probably come for IFLA to join forces with the regional library associations by sharing its professional responsibility with the regional organisations where it is found practical and meaningful. The scarce international financial and manpower resources available for promoting library development especially in the less developed countries should be put to optimum use, thus reducing duplication of efforts and wastage of scarce resources in unproductive competition in trying to achieve the same objective.

The regional offices of IFLA have no doubt played an important role in making IFLA and its programs better known to the region and encouraging greater participation from the region in the international federation. By and large they have remained as administrative regional focal points for IFLA. However, there are severe constraints imposed on the regional offices when it comes to the question of

4082

formulating effective and meaningful projects consonant with the varying needs of the vast region they are expected to represent. One is thoroughly disillusioned by the magnitude of the task.

Future international efforts towards library development programs in third world countries may have to be re-orientated to allow for an integrated approach with optimum utilisation of resources available at national, regional and international levels to achieve the common objective of advancement of librarianship in third world countries.

The new international infrastructure for library and information science organisations might be developed along the lines proposed in Figure 1, providing a pyramid structure between IFLA at the apex and the national library associations at the base of the pyramid.

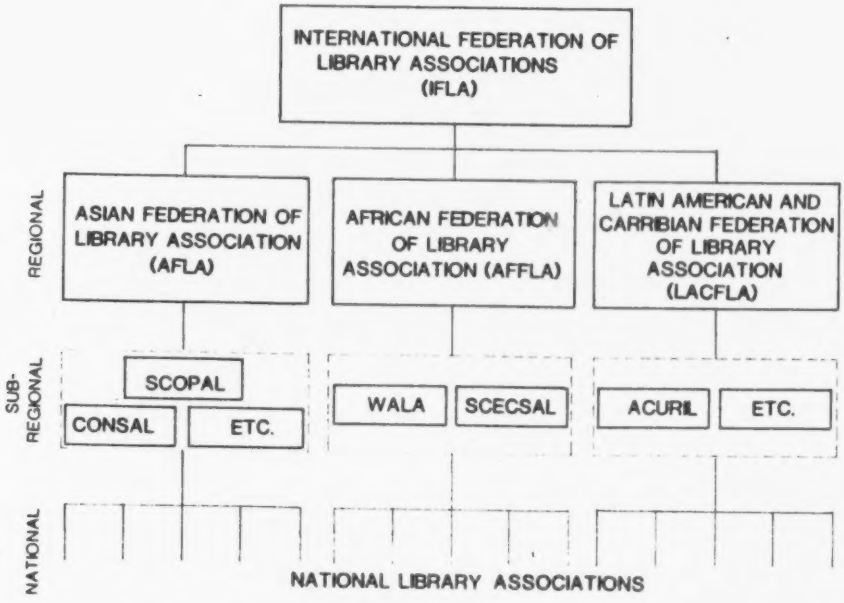


Figure 1.

4083

Similar structure already exist for other disciplines related to librarianship, and it may be timely for IFLA to carefully consider ways and means of strengthening its ties with regional library organisations and work together for the common good.

Asia is in a fortunate position to have one of the most advanced industrialised countries in the world, Japan, included in our region, not to mention Australia and New Zealand in the Oceania region. Much will be expected from these countries to share their expertise and resources for the accelerated development of libraries and librarianship in Asia and Oceania. It is to be clearly understood that the formation of AFLA is not an attempt to undermine or compete with IFLA but to complement and join forces with IFLA in meeting the many challenges faced in the region.

It is indeed ironical that the rebirth of AFLA should be considered in this very same city where the idea was first mooted some thirty years ago. If the countries represented in this distinguished gathering of Asian Librarians are favourably disposed to the proposal to re-establish AFLA, then I can only say that it augurs well for AFLA and the future of library development in Asia. Afterall, the strength and performance of any multi-national library association can only be as strong as the members would want it to be.

REFERENCES

1. M. SIDDIR KHAN. The Asian Federation of Library Associations. Library Association Record April (1958) pp. 123-125.

2. FANG, Josephine Riss and SONGE, Alice H.

International Guide to Library, Archival and Information Science Associations. 2nd ed.

N.Y. R.R. Bowker & Co. 1980.

3. LIEBAERS, Herman

Message from Herman Liebaers, President IFLA

in

Proceedings of the First Conference of South-East Asian Librarians, Singapore 14th - 16th Aug. 1970, edited by P. Lim Pui Huen and others, pp. 25-29. Singapore, Chopman Enterprises, 1972

4. SOOSAI, J.S.

A Decade of International Library Co-operation Through IFLA: A Third World Perspective.

IFLA Journal, I (1981) No.1, pp. 19-23.

5. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

IFLA Directory 1986/87.

The Hague, IFLA, 1986.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section: ASIA AND OCEANIA

½ day Seminar on prospects for Asian library development

1986

182-ASIA-5-E

IFLA's Core programme on the Advancement of librarianship in the Third World: orientation, mechanism and priorities

D.E.K. WIJASURIYA

National Library of Malaysia

(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

KEYWORD(S):

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no: 67

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

4086

IFLA's Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World : orientation, mechanisms and priorities.

Dr. D.E.K. Wijasuriya
National Library of Malaysia

Introduction

This paper is concerned mainly with IFLA's sixth and newest Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World. It suggests some changes in orientation, proposes a mechanism for implementation and comments on Third World priorities.

A programme is a definite plan of intended proceedings. A Core Programme therefore would indicate the very foundation or the basic or essential elements of a plan of intended proceedings. A Core Programme is clearly a major programme and would normally bring under its purview all activities geared towards the realization of programme objectives.

The Third World

Some appreciation of the term "Third World" is necessary for purposes of this paper. While Europe may have been the "Old World" and the Americas the "New World", the "Third World" does not necessarily refer to the rest of the world. In general terms, the "Third World" refers to the "developing countries", although all countries are in a state of development. Other terms have also been used such as "South countries", "under developed", "less developed" or "poor" to categorize this group of countries. The United Nations, particularly UNCTD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) has categorized countries into three groups, based on a large number of socio-economic indicators. These are the "developed countries", the "developing countries" and the "least developed countries". There are no less than 140 countries comprising the so called "Third World: which includes the "developing countries" (DCs) as well as the "least developed

countries". (LDCs). The great disparities between countries in the "Third World" need little emphasis. These disparities do not only exist between DCs and LDCs but also among countries within each group. International organizations such as IFLA, in attempting to respond to the needs of the Third World must take Third World realities into consideration in programme planning and implementation. The U.N. General Assembly in December 1982 categorized 36 countries as LDCs. These included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea - Bissau, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. Only a few of these countries are IFLA members. IFLA membership among DCs is somewhat greater. Clearly IFLA's Third World orientation as expressed in its newest Core Programme should be geared differently for DCs and for LDCs but should not be predicated on IFLA membership.

If DCs have great difficulty in meeting IFLA membership dues, LDCs would find it nearly impossible.

The Historical Perspective

IFLA is generally considered to have been established in Post-War (WWI) Europe in 1927 although the name IFLA only emerged in 1929. For many decades, IFLA functioned as a European organization and first demonstrated some concern for the developing countries in 1971 with the setting up of a Working Group for Developing Countries, which functioned, for the most part, for the English - speaking countries. As a consequence of this, in 1973, a Working Group for French speaking countries was set up. In 1975, the IFLA Executive Board agreed to the establishment of three Working Groups - one for Africa, one for Latin America and the Carribean and one for Asia. In 1976, the Division of Regional Activities was set up by IFLA, with each of the three Working Groups reconstituted

as Sections of that Division. Now almost a decade later IFLA has formulated its sixth Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World.

IFLA's concern and initiative in trying to bring about improvements in the developing countries is commendable.

But after fifteen years of effort, what exactly is there to show on the ground that has been lasting and meaningful?

That there has been a significant increase in IFLA membership from the Third World is undeniable and has been attested to in a number of previous papers. Joseph Soosai in a paper presented at the IFLA General Conference in Manila, 1980 stated :

> " a growth of more than 400% in the IFLA membership from the Third World countries has been registered between 1972 and 1980. There was an overall total of 48 members in 1972 from the Third World, including 34 from Asia, 7 from Africa and 7 from Latin America and the Carribean. The 48 members were distributed in about 30 countries. The 1980 figures show a marked increase of the membership with an overall total of 228 members ... including 135 from Asia, 67 in Africa and 47 in Latin America and the Carribean. There are now about sixty five countries in the Third World where there are IFLA members ..."(1)

The figure 228 given in Soosai's paper appears to be in error

---

(1) J.S. Soosai. A decade of international library cooperation through IFLA: A Third World perspective. IFLA General Conference, Manila, 1980.

as the sum total of membership in Asia, Africa and Latin America would amount to 249. It is interesting to point out here that while IFLA membership from the Third World may have increased by 400%, Third World countries involved with IFLA through national association or institutional membership increased by about 100%. Considering that Third World countries now number about 140, the IFLA membership from 65 Third World countries only accounts for about 46%. For the greater part of the Third World therefore, IFLA may still be, as Joseph Soosai succinctly put it "a four letter word". The *IFLA Directory, 1986/87* shows IFLA now has members in 79 Third World countries. Of these, 15% are LDCs.

Another distinct IFLA achievement has been the organization of Pre-Session Seminars in alternate years in conjunction with the IFLA General Conference which has enabled a considerable number of Librarians from the Third World to participate and benefit from interaction with professional colleagues at the international level. This participation would not have been possible without the generous support of UNESCO. Third World participants however have been largely from the DCs; very few have come from the LDCs.

The holding of IFLA conferences outside the traditional venues of Europe and North America have also been useful developments. So has Third World representation on the IFLA Executive Board. This should be increased proportionate to Third World membership in IFLA.

In terms of Third World project support, IFLA's performance record is less flattering. Project requests on file show little rationale in project selection, approval or allocation of project funds. Project funds have necessarily been somewhat limited. There has also been little project monitoring, project reporting or the dissemination of completed project reports. Many projects do not appear to have been completed at all.

Taking an overall perspective, it is difficult to state that IFLA

efforts over the past fifteen years in the Third World have been of much significance.

IFLA's Core Programmes

IFLA's Core Programmes developed over the years have been oriented largely to the needs of the developed countries. The Core Programmes for Universal Bibliographical Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) however have also been of relevance in the Third World and have been implemented in varying degrees.

The more recently established Core Programmes - International MARC Programme (IMP), Preservation and Conservation (PAC) and Trans-border Data Flow (TDF) again reflect the immediate concerns of the developed countries although they could in the long term also benefit the Third World. Be that as it may, IFLA's sixth and newest Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALTW) appears to be an attempt to redress the balance. ALTW however being area oriented rather than mission oriented would include other Core Programme activities. This would apply especially to UBC and UAP implementation in the Third World. Lines of demarcation will have to be drawn up to avoid duplication of effort, overlap and the consequest waste of scare resources - human or material.

Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World

IFLA's newest Core Programme is possibly its most ambitious and most difficult to implement in meaningful terms. The IFLA Professional Board has set certain parameters for ALTW in the *Medium - Term Programme, (MTP) 1986 - 1991*, from which the following excerpts are made:

Programme Objective

The general objective of the programme is to make a concerted

effort to improve librarianship in the Third World.

Specific objectives of the programme are those specified for the Division of Regional Activities. These are :

(1) the development of national libraries and library and information infrastructures

(2) the promotion of UAP through the organization of training seminars

(3) the encouragement of the establishment of public library systems with particular attention to the needs of rural areas

(4) the improvement of library services for the physically handicapped

(5) improvement of the status of professional librarians

(6) further development of library education programmes and continuing education

(7) promotion of inter and intra-regional exchange of staff

(8) the continuation of programmes on the role and importance of libraries as resource centeres implanting reading habits in children, and the preparation of minimum standards for school libraries.

(9) the encouragement of close professional cooperation with regional library organizations and the exploration of the ways and means for promoting practical and meaningful relations between IFLA and these organizations

Programme Orientation

According to the Medium Term Programme, the innovative aspect of the Core Programme is the endeavour to plan a cohesive programme which concentrates on the creation of the best possible conditions for self development of library services in the Third World. Horizonal cooperation among the countries of the Third World is the main aim of this Core Programme.

Programme Areas and Action

The programme focuses on the following main areas and actions :

Centralized Stimulation of Decentralized Action

The tasks are :

developing further geographical representation in IFLA by attracting more members from the Third World

developing a feeling of belonging by stimulating active participation in IFLA's professional groups and professional meetings

providing services designed to support and encourage librarians, library associations, libraries and library schools by applying IFLA systems, guidelines and standards in their specific fields.

encouraging translations of publications in librarianship

providing advisory assistance to improve the status of librarianship, preferrably by strengthening the organization and role of national library associations.

The overall goal is to create an effective focal point and service centre for all Third World library concerns, preferably

as a special department within IFLA Headquarters.

Strengthening Regional Cooperation

The tasks are :

furthering the role of Regional Standing Committees
improvement of the Regional Offices by making them effective regional information sources.

Training Activities

Emphasized will be :

specialized seminars linked to IFLA conferences where feasible

learning through on-sight experiences by exchanges of promising professionals within the Third World countries themselves(2)

Observations on Programme Objectives, Orientation and Implementation

Some comment and observation on ALTW programme objectives, orientation and implementation as stated in the *Medium - Term Programme 1986 - 1991* may be useful here. The general programme objectives appear to be almost coextensive with the title of the Core Programme. The only difference is that "Advancement" has been substituted for "improve" and that "a concerted effort" is to be made. By way of comparison in all other IFLA Core Programmes, programme objectives are stated in some detail and are not coextensive with the programme litle. ALTW therefore appears to have been put together somewhat hastily. Specific objectives of

---

(2)

Medium - Term Programme 1986 - 1991; compiled by the Professional Board of IFLA. The Hague, IFLA Headquarters, 1985. p 22-24,52

ALTW merely refer to objectives specified for the Division of Regional Activities. These objectives too merit comment and possibly review.

Bearing in mind general conditions prevailing in the DCs and LDCs, what constitutes an improvement or advancement of librarianship could vary greatly in each Third World country. Against this backdrop, the specific objectives specified in the MTP would be of little relevance in the LDCs. For that matter, in a number of DCs, a number of the objectives specified would not represent priority concerns.

Nevertheless there is merit in the general and specific programme objectives which have been established for they provide at least a broad framework within which advancement or improvement in librarianship in the Third World could be effected.

However it appears that in that most crucial area of action and implementation, the greatest weaknesses are evident.

"Developing further geographical representation in IFLA by attracting more members from the Third World" appears to be a top priority according to the MTP. While this may be desirable in the long term, it is relatively unimportant from a Third World country point of view. IFLA membership should come as a by - product of meaningful developments on the ground in the Third World and not as a prequalification for development or for IFLA intervention and support. Either there is genuine concern for the advancement of librarianship in the Third World or there is not. Again, "developing a feeling of belonging by stimulating active participation in IFLA's professional groups and professional meetings" may be meaningful to some DCs but is unlikely to have meaningful effects on the ground in the LDCs particularly. Not only do financial constraints preclude participation, but levels of development in LDCs particularly leave LDC participants completely at sea in IFLA's professional gatherings.

"Applying IFLA systems, guidelines and standards" may be useful, but it seems that in many Third World countries, actions of a far more basic nature may be needed. Again "encouraging translations of publications in librarianship" may be far less important than providing for translations in other fields. Book development and availability, literacy and the inculcation of the reading habit may be far more important considerations in the Third World.

Despite the preceding observations and comments, IFLA's Programme Areas and Action has useful elements. Reference is made here to the provision of "advisory assistance to improve the status of librarianship" in Third World countries. This has potential for meaningful developments on the ground and should be further developed.

But to implement it all, IFLA appears to be depending on its Regional Offices and its Regional Standing Committees with some coordination at IFLA Headquarters itself. These provisions should be reviewed.

The Regional Standing Committees exist largely in name only. They have rarely been able to meet. The Regional Offices in some cases did useful work but they have served their purpose and should be phased out. Coordination at IFLA Headquarters, considering the heavy duties of the Secretary-General and her senior colleagues appears to be quite impractical.

It must be reiterated quite categorically that IFLA Regional Offices, largely operating on shoe-string budgets and forever dependant on external funds are highly unlikely to implement effectively the new Core Programme on ALTW. If present arrangements are allowed to continue, the Third World will move into the Twenty First Century, as seriously disadvantaged in library terms as it is at present.

Mechanics of Implementation

Any programme or action plan is only as good as the machinery available or established for its implementation. This machinery would also include the persons providing the motivating force for programme implementation.

It is pertinent to make the observation here that IFLA's other Core Programmes on UBC, UAP, IMP, PAC and TDF are all hosted by leading national libraries in the developed countries which have provided for many years the space, staff and funds for programme implementation. Staffing provided has been of the highest calibre. Some of these costs have apparantly been met by IFLA in terms of salaries and superannuation benefits. But alas, in the case of the Third World, everything is attempted "on the cheap". Institutions and countries hosting the Core Programmes have worked with a particular sense of commitment because of a vested interest in the programme. Self interest could be said to have blended nicely with programme objectives. This is not stated in criticism for few human actions are motivated by complete altruism.

For the implementation of ALTW, provisions should be no less. In fact, much more needs to be done, for the programme concerns more than 70% of the world's population and cuts across all programme areas.

However finding host countries and host institutions for the implementation of ALTW is a difficult task. Considering the vastness of the Third World, both in terms of population and territorial expanse, more than one host country/institution is required. To achieve meaningful progress, the Third World should be broken up into manageable regions. More advanced DCs in the Third World and Developed Countries on the perifery of the Third World could be considered as host countries for a designated geographical area. Each host country and institution must be prepared to make a long term commitment to Programme implementation and must be prepared to make a minimum input in terms of personnel

and resources. While it is desirable that DCs serve as host countries, very few DCs may be in a position to do so. Complimentary support from IFLA and other international doner agencies should also be effected through IFLA efforts.

A possible regional grouping of Third World countries with suggested host countries for the implementation of the ALTW Core Programme is given below :

Suggested Regional Grouping	Suggested ALTWCP Host Countries
(1) South and South West Asia	India/Saudi Arabia
(2) East and Central Asia	Republic of Korea/Japan
(3) South East Asia and Oceania	Australia/Malaysia
(4) Africa	France/Nigeria
(5) Central and South America	Brazil/Argentina

The above suggestions firstly have to be acceptable to IFLA and to Third World countries comprising a region as well as to host countries suggested. There may be political and diplomatic considerations here. The selection and assigment of host countries and institutions of IFLA's other Core Programmes may have been less fraught with political mine-fields. Ultimately the choice of countries and host institutions may have to be based on countries willing to make a commitment in terms of ALTW implementation. This in turn could be dependent on a country's economic or political interests in a region. ALTW implementation therefore has to be handled with delicacy and considerable finesse. As a first step, IFLA may have to sound out a leading institution, possibly the national library in the host country suggested in order to obtain a response and hopefully a positive indication of interest. The pace may vary in each of the suggested regions. The CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries) may have a role to play here.

Another possible option in ALTW implementation is to utilize regional organizations operating in the field to effect developments. A good example in South East Asia is CONSAL (Congress of South

East Asian Librarians)which meets once every three years. There are apparantly few equivalent organizations in other Third World regions. While regional organizations may provide a useful forum for professional interaction, their programme implementation capacity is far more limited. By and large, the Executive Boards of each CONSAL have devoted all their efforts towards the organization of the congress. The Executive Board of CONSAL V did envisage a wider role but only managed to organize CONSAL V (the Fifth Congress of South East Asian Librarians) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1981. CONSAL has initiated some useful projects but its orientation has always been to South East Asia, particularly the ASEAN countries. The problems of funding participation make conferences or meetings infrequent. Elected officials are committed, only to the extent their normal occupations allow. While regional organizations are definitely useful and provide a forum for debate and the exchange of ideas, they may find it difficult to implement IFLA's ALTW Core Programme, unless backed by a full-time Secretariat of salaried officials. This could multiply costs rather than maximise benefits.

There is also some interest in setting up of AFLA (Asian Federation of Library Associations). Considering the vastness of Asia, how effective AFLA will be in terms of ALTW implementation is a moot point. Besides, how would the rest of the Third World be catered for? There may be a need to consider also a SAFLA (South American Federation of Library Associations) as well as an AfFLA (African Federation of Library Associations). The setting up of new organizations always takes time. It would be far more practical to utilize existing organizations, wherever they exist, provided they have the necessary potential for ALTW programme implementation.

There is no question that at the national level, the national library, the national library association or other leading institution may have to be utilized to translate the Core Programme into pragmatic and concrete realities on the ground.

As an additional measure, IFLA could also consider appointing honorary IFLA representatives in each region to continually assess the implementation of ALTW in the region and provide feedback reports to IFLA for publication in an ALTW Newsletter. In order to ensure objectivity, IFLA honorary representatives should not be appointed from ALTW host countries or institutions.

Third World Priorities

By and large, Third World priorities rarely include libraries. However in order to create the conditions for self-help and self-improvement and reduce, progressively, dependence on external benefaction, educational provisions are often accorded high priority. Educational provisions - whether formal or non-formal - are closely linked to literary, book production, book promotion, the inculcation of the reading habit as well as school libraries and public libraries. Improvement or advancement in the context of library development in Third World countries will vary greatly.

Third World country profiles of library development have to be drawn up in each region with action by ALTW Host Countries in collaboration with individual countries within the region. UNESCO's numerous consultant mission reports in Third World countries could provide a useful starting point. UNESCO cooperation will be required here to make available reports concerning a particular region. These could provide priority indicators. It is possibly from efforts such as these that effective action programmes can can emerge. Investments - human or material should have multiplier effects.

In each of the regions suggested earlier, there is geographic proximity, but distances are great and there is little homogeneity in socio-economic terms. Each region comprizes in varying proportion, both DCs and LDCs. Varient programmes may have to be drawn up for each category. The task is daunting but a beginning must be made. IFLA should be commended for taking this progressive step but will need all the help it can get from its members as well as U.N.agencies

concerned if programme objectives are to be progressively realized.

IFLA Members in the Third World

Algeria (1)
Angola (1)
Antigua (W.Ind.) (1)
Antilles, Netherlands (5)
Bahamas (1)
*Bangladesh (6)
Barbados (W.Ind.) (1)
Belize (1)
Bermuda (1)
*Botswana (3)
Brazil (8)
*Burundi (1)
China, People's Republic of (14)
Colombia (7)
Congo, Republic of (1)
Costa Rica (1)
Cuba (1)
Domincan Republic (1)
*Ethiopia (1)
Fiji (2)
*Gambia (1)
Ghana (3)
Honduras (1)
Hong Kong (6)
India (22)
Indonesia (2)
Iran (8)
Iraq (3)
Israel (11)
Ivory Coast (2)
Jamaica (6)
Jordan (6)
Kenya (4)
Kiribati (1)
Korea (Democratic People's Rep.) (1)
Korea (Republic) (7)
Kuwait (2)
Lebanon (3)
*Lesotho (2)
Libya (3)
*Malawi (1)
Malaysia (11)
*Mali (1)
Mauritania (2)
Mauritius (1)
Mexico (11)
Moroco (1)
*Nepal (1)
Nicaragua (1)
Nigeria (18)
Pakistan (3)
Papua New Guinea (2)
Peru (6)
Philippines (6)
Puerto Rico (3)
*Rwanda (1)
Saudi Arabia (7)
Senegal (5)
*Sierra Leone (2)
Singapore (3)
Solomon Islands (1)
Sri Lanka (2)
*Sudan (1)
Swaziland (1)
*Tanzania (4)
Transkei, Republic of (1)
Thailand (5)
*Togo (1)
Trinidad and Tobago (2)
Tunisia (5)
Turkey (7)
*Uganda (2)
United Arab Emirates (2)
United Arab Republic (2)
Uruguay (1)
Venezuela (2)
Zaire (1)
Zambia (2)
Zimbabwe (2)

Note: figure in brackets indicates the number of IFLA members.
* refers to LDCs.

Third World Regions / Countries	Population (in millions as at mid 1978)	GNP per capita	
		$(1978)	Average ann. growth 1960 - 78
South/South-West Asia			
Bangladesh	84.7	90	0.4
India	643.9	180	1.4
Sri Lanka	14.3	190	2.0
Pakistan	77.3	230	2.8
Yemen PDR	1.8	420	-
Yemen Arab Rep.	5.6	520	-
Syrian Arab Rep.	8.1	930	3.8
Jordan	3.0	1,050	-
Lebanon	3.0	-	-
Turkey	43.1	1,200	4.0
Israel	3.7	3,500	4.2
Iraq	12.2	1,860	4.1
Iran	35.8	2,160	7.9
Saudi Arabia	8.2	7,690	9.7
Kuwait	1.2	14,890	15.8
Central/East Asia			
Bhutan	1.2	100	0.3
China, Republic of	952.2	230	3.7
Afghanistan	14.6	240	0.4
Korea, Republic of	36.6	1,160	6.9
Taiwan	17.1	1,400	6.6
Hong Kong	4.6	3,040	6.5
Korea, Dem. Rep. of	17.1	730	4.5

4103

Third World Regions / Countries	Population (in millions as at mid 1978)	GNP per capita	
		$(1978)	Average ann. growth 1960 - 78
Mongolia	1.6	940	1.5
Nepal	13.6	120	0.8
South East Asia & Oceania			
Kampucea, Dem.	8.4	-	-
Burma	32.2	150	1.0
Vietnam	51.7	170	-
Indonesia	136.0	360	4.1
Thailand	44.5	490	4.6
Philippines	45.6	510	2.6
Papua New Guinea	2.9	560	3.6
Malaysia	13.3	1,090	3.9
Singapore	2.3	3,290	7.4
Africa			
Ethiopia	31.0	120	1.5
Mali	6.3	120	1.0
Somalia	3.7	130	0.5
Burundi	4.5	140	2.2
Chad	4.3	140	1.0
Mozambique	9.9	140	0.4
Upper Volta	5.6	160	1.3
Malawi	5.7	180	2.9
Rwanda	4.5	180	1.4
Guinea	5.1	210	0.6
Sierra Leone	3.3	210	0.5

4104

Third World Regions / Countries	Population (in millions as at mid 1978)	GNP per capita	
		$(1978)	Average ann. growth 1960 - 78
Zaire	26.8	210	1.1
Niger	5.0	220	1.4
Benin	3.3	230	0.4
Tanzania	16.9	230	2.7
Central African Rep.	1.9	250	0.7
Madagascar	8.3	250	0.3
Lesotho	I.3	280	5.9
Uganda	12.4	280	0.7
Angola	6.7	300	1.2
Sudan	17.4	320	0.1
Togo	2.4	320	5.0
Kenya	14.7	330	2.2
Senegal	5.4	340	0.4
UAR	39.9	390	3.3
Ghana	11.0	390	0.5
Cameroon	8.1	460	2.9
Liberia	1.7	460	2.9
Zimbabwe	6.9	480	1.2
Zambia	5.3	480	1.2
Congo, People's Rep.	1.5	540	1.0
Nigeria	80.0	560	3.6
Morocco	18.9	670	2.5
Ivory Coast	7.8	840	2.5
Tunisia	6.0	950	4.8
Algeria	17.6	1,260	2.3

IFLA
1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section: ASIA AND OCEANIA
½-day seminar on prospects for Asian Library development

183-ASIA-6-E

Japan's Libraries and Asian Studies -with JOLG activities

Prof. Kazushige KANEKO

President Institute of Asian Ethno Forms and Culture

Executive Director
Japan Orientalist Librarians Group (JOLG)

KEYWORD(S):

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

67

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

4106

IFLA TOKYO CONVENTION REGIONAL CONFERENCE

August 26th, 1986

At Aoyama Gakuin University

Japan's Libraries and Asian Studies
-With JOLG activities-

by

Prof. Kazushige Kaneko

President

Institute of Asian Ethno Forms and Culture

Exective Director

Japan Orientalist Librarians Group(JOLG)

Japan is part of Asia, and the Japanese people are clearly Asians. But we have somehow seemed to forget this. From the biginning of the Meiji Era, we have felt such admiration for the West that our modernization has been in effect simply the absorption of its civilization. As the result of keeping such close, pace with the West is that we tend to slight Asia in both philosophy and culture, and at the time we brought great distress to the people of Asia. At this time in history, when internationalization is the order of the day, the Japanese people, must deepen their awareness that they are part of Asia, and they must promote a correct understanding both in the home and in the schools, of our fellow-Asians. If Japan continues to emphasize only the Western values it has aquired, it will be unable to reach the heart of the peoples of Asia.

It is striking that information on overseas subjects, even if we look only at library materials is very ample for we find that the West but very scanty for Asia. Sice our heavy involvement in Western civilization, Asia, which is the fundamental stratum from which our culture has developed, has come to seem to us a strange, distant culture. Japan's real internationalization with not be possible if we learn exclusibly towards the West. Only when we correctly percieve our relation to Asia will the age of

true internationalization arrive. Moreover the time has come for greater balance in our information about the outside world. We need knowledge and information about the west.But,we also need information about Asia, Africa, and South America at the same level as that of the West.

Permit me to give an example of the degree of basis in our educational system. Our people have traditionally possessed a very sensitive ear for music.However, in the Meiji Era, music education was devoted exclusively to the five-line staff and anything else was not considered music. As the result, the door to traditional Japanese music, and the sounds and rythms of Asia became completely closed. The same error was committed for art education. The only examples were Western; the art of Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia and India were not taught at all. Therefor, students came hold a very narrow conception of art.

The this trend appears strongly in publications and has produced serious defects in library collections. What should be done about this? First, it is necessary to correct the conceptions of public education; to publish more translations of Asian work and to increase the number of books on Asia in the public libraries.

How can we do this? First of all: (1) make a coordinated network of librarians engaged in the collection, arrangement and utilization of information on Asia; (2) organize researchers engaged in Asian area studies of history, geography, ethnology, archeaology, religion, the performing arts etc.; (3) in addition to printed material, collect and display the plastic arts that sustain daily life culture in Asia. I also feel strongly that we need artisan exchanges with all Asian. To this end I am forming a three-pillar structure with inter-linkages and a network system with colleagues who will be part of each of these pillars. With this as the core and having the people who have a strong interest in Asia in the center, it is my hope that while expanding the circle we can have a place where the people of Asia can exchange views and establish common ground for others who also have an interest in Asia.

As one of these three pillars, the JOLG comprised librarians has been established. The JOLG was created in Dec. 1980 by a handful, of only eleven people, who were deeply Interested and concerned about materials in universities, embassies, research institutes publishing houses,etc. Ever since its founding, materials and information have been exchanged a number of programs have been instituted;

(1)Internationalization of catalogues.Heretofore, almost all catalogues published in Japan were in Japanese, but this made it difficult for others to use. So, the first thing we did was to edit the catalogue on Asia-related books published in Japan to aliow for English notations. As a result, first of all, "The Bibliography on Southeast Asian Materials in the Japanese Language, 1946-1983" Kinokuniya Publishing Co.(price ¥20,000) was published. In order to show that the volume carries English language notations, it has been titled the "JOLG edition".

(2) In order to acquire information on Asia, it is necessary to hear the experiences of researchers, and more broadly of these people in mass communication engaged in information-collecting in the region - diplomats,representatives of commercial houses, etc. To this end, the "Area Study Workshop" was started.

(3) JOLG oragan paper. The "JOLG Newspaper", a quarterly, was published. Our English language summary was also attached, and thus we have heard back from many countries around the world.

(4) Establishment of departments. Five departments for Korea, China, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and West Asia have been established, and they are all engaged in the exchange of information and research.

(5) Courses for training of Area Study librarians. As the awareness of Asia increases, more specialist librarians are needed. In order to accomplish the necessary training, ten lectures from the five departments have been selected, and we have had approximately eighty participants in the first session held in August of last year. This course was not simply on library science, but starting with basic knowledge of each Asian region, and based on two hour units on library material, history,

geography, ethnos, religion, politics, economics, resources, daily life culture,etc. lasted for tendays and was well recieved.

(6) Exchanges with overseas organs. Exchange program vigorous contact between the peoples of Asia. We must study the culture and also look carefully at the ideology and religions. For this purpose, travel must be encouraged, and efforts must be made correctly understand Japanese ways of thinking and behavier. At the same time, it is also important that inter-change of experts on Asian affairs and exchange of information be developed. In order to achieve this, we have deepened our inter-change with Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians(CONSAL), Southeast Asian Research Materials Group(SEARMG),International Association of Orientalist Librarians(IAOL), Association of Asian Studies(AAS), Committee of East Asian Libraries(CEAL), etc., and attended their meeting as well.

(7) Special edition on libraries of Asia, Library Yearbook.
A special 1985 edition of the Japan Library Asociation annual featuring Asia has been published. In paticular,a questionnaire was sent to the head librarians of the respective national libraries on " Libraries of Asia " that had not hitherto been given sufficient attention within library circles of Japan, and we were able to obtain detailed data on this matter. In addition, we were able to recieve contributions articles on " The current situation of Asian Research in Japan " from Asian researchers, and an introduction on the " Situation of Materials on Asia in Japan" by those in charge of the various regional departments of this Association.

The above is roughly an outline of the activities of this Association. Our enthusiasm for Asia, and the various projects to materialize our aspiration are indeed modest, but we have steadily produced results. We owe our vitalitic success in such a short period of time to the cooperation of the Toyota Foundation.

During the 1982-1983 fiscal years, we recieved assistance from the Forum Grant Program and in November 1984, we were able to recieve special assistance on the occasion of the Tennth-Anniversary Commemorative Grants of the Toyota Foudation. We

are deeply honored, but we also feel the weightiness of our mission.

For some time, I have asserted that the 21st century will be the Era of Asia. My convictions have strengthened by more than twenty yaers of contact. The peoples of Asia who have trodden a long and difficult path, are biginning to show more strong ethnic energies based on their own living experiences. That energy is the symbol of the Era of Asia.

The time has come for us, as part of Asia, to re-learn much from our Asian friends and to become as useful to them as possible. If information on Japan is needed, we would like to cooperate actively, we have tried to do this in part by translating materials on Japan into English so that it will be more accessible to you.

With the recent IFLA Tokyo Convention as a starting point, we hopé that our Asian colleagues will join us in pushing ahead our dialogue on library publications, research, exchange of information, inter-change of people, and many other activities. The JOLG to do its share.

4111

ASIA STUDY INFORMATION CENTER

JAPAN ORIENTALIST LIBRARIANS GROUP (JOLG) (Written Material)

Libraians in charge of books on Asia, those engaged in gathering information, editing, publication, and sales

JAPAN ASIAN RESEARCHERS GROUP (People)

Researchers of history, geography, ethnology, archaeology, folklore, religion, philosophy, literature, linguistic, mythology, polotics, economics, etc.

INSTITUTE OF ASIAN ETHNO FORMS AND CULTURE (Material Objects)

Curator in charge of Asian material in museums and galleries.
Artisans and creators (architecture, ceramics, wooden, lacquer-ware, dyeing, paper, bamboo, rocks, metals, glass, straw, leather, pictures, sculptures, calligraphy, paper hanging, photography, book-binding, dress-making, cooking, musical instruments, performing arts, etc.
Researchers, those concerned with preservation of cultural property and repair, collectors

4112

IFLA 52ND SESSION, TOKYO, 1986

DIVISION FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

SECTION FOR AFRICA.

195-AFRICA-1-E

AUTOMATION IN LIBRARIES: AFRICA POINT OF VIEW

BY

J S MUSISI
HEAD, LIBRARY SERVICES
MOI UNIVERSITY: KENYA

Meeting: 126

4911

PREAMBLE

Library automation is a phenomenon that libraries and information units in Africa cannot afford to shelve in this decade of computer technology. This is so because, Africa does not exist in isolation from the rest of the world. There are examples of how people use advanced telecommunications technology systems to make their businesses more effective which have implications on life in Africa. Similar examples equally apply to libraries and information units. For example: "in Hong Kong, bankers watch the dollar rise and fall on portable computers which they take along for lunch. In Britain, on the other hand, facsimile machines relay documents into moving boats and cars. It was reported further that early this year, a French company decided to devote U.S.$40 million to linking its computer systems worldwide while in U.K. a clothing company was beating low-cost Far East competitors by linking its manufacturing process directly to retail customers via information technology and by so doing, it trippled its turnover in the process."[1] These examples prove that not only is information technology happening now as it fulfils its promise of transforming the way we do things, but also that Africa can benefit immensely from applying some of the information technology.

One thing which should be appreciated in this connection is that we are experiencing rapid changes particulrly in every aspects of our lives. One of the evident changes that is currently affecting our lives is in the area of communication. We no longer only rely heavily on traditional print media as the only source of information, but we are also becoming increasingly aware of and dependent on non-print communication forms. Computers coupled with the science of cybernetics is accelerating the change in just about everything done in industrialised countries and this trend is steadily increasing in Africa.

One area in which technology has permeated with great impact is in information technology in the libraries and information units.

The term: 'Information technology' is recent and describes the whole range of processes for acquisition, storage, transmission, retrieval and processing of information. Libraries and Information units, because of their ubliquitous involvement in the selection, acquisition, control, circulation and dissemination of information are virtually involved in the rapid communication processes and evolution. The great change occuring in libraries and information units will be responsible for analysing requested information and having the experience to interpret them by using man-machine interface system of retrieving the exact information needed. The need for accurate and timely information by the individuals has increased tremendously. However, this important task of analysing requested information cannot be effectively and adequately performed by unskilled patron, as it requires knowledge in the operation and efficient use of information systems. It is therefore important that libraries and information workers should be trained and be aware of the many characteristics and facets of the multitutes of communication forms available. Similarly, it should be emphasised that Information Technology requires a culturally prepared society with a high level of scholarstic education.

STATE OF THE ART

The position in Africa is that majority of the African countries have been the principal architects of the Declaration on a New INternational Economic Order. This Declaration, among other things, calls for action by the international community to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of technology on a basis of equality. In this context therefore, this paper will discuss library automation as it affacts the socio-economic and political development of the continent of Africa in terms of improving access to information through automating some activities in libraries and information units.

If the definition of automation in libraries and information units means, the use of: telephones, telexes, satellite telecommunications, films, projectors, transparencies, radio, televisions, memory typewriters and computers, etc. then majority of libraries and information units in Africa are already using many of the automated facilities.

There exist in most of the African capitals and indeed in individual libraries and information units in Africa, all the automation facilities listed above. What is not yet being applied, however is the use of computers in libraries and information units. There are, however numerous types of computers with thousands of vendors throughout the African Continent. In Kenya, for example, a survey was conducted by Price Waterhouse Associates in Nairobi on the types of computers and the vendors available in the country including the service backup and it is amazing to know how up-to-date Kenya is in the field of computers, both in the hard and soft wares.[2]

What is not available, however, is the application of computer use in libraries and information units in Africa to a level worth reporting at a forum of this kind. In the first place, there are no softwares for use in libraries and information units readily available on the African market and indeed, no qualified programmers to develop them. All the availble facilties in this area are abroad in Europe, U.S.A., Canada and Australia. In May this year, a seminar was held at Moi University lasting one month. The seminar was run by senior staff from Sheffield University, department of Library and Information Science entitled: Advanced Information Technology. During the seminar period, participants spent one week in Nairobi visiting libraries and information units to see and acquaint themselves with libraries and information units which are automated. What was amazing in the number of libraries and information units visited was the number and various types of automated services being used. Several libraries are already using many different types of computers for information processing, storage and retrieval. What was common, however, is the use of recommended programmes for this or that aspect of library activity and the numerous difficulties being experienced by those who have ventured in the field.

You will appreciate how very fast changes are being made in the use of computers. Although UNESCO, IDRC and other similar international organisations are offering some of the library softwares free of charge, these softwares are not satisfactorily meeting the needs of activities in libraries and information units in Africa. Majority of the librarians and other information workers we visited in Nairobi therefore are engaged in attempts to develop their own programmes! a mammoth task and one that I would not wish to attempt nor recommend.

The use of computers in a number of African countries goes as far back as in the 1950s. Arising out of this, industries in many African countries have developed connections with several international computer manufacturers abroad. In Kenya, for example, computer manufacturers such as IBM, ICL, NCR, etc[3] are locally represented in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Despite the fact that majority of international computer firms are represented in major African capitals, library automation with regard to acquisition, storage and retrieval of information has still remained unexplored in the computer industry and the application of sophisticated automation in information technology compared to examples given in Hong Kong, Britain and other countries above is not yet any where near. This is due to lack of several essential facilities: telephone services is still very poor in some African countries, satellite facilities are un-heard of in many African countries, while electricity on the other hand is very unreliable in many of the African countries. Trained and qualified personnel with not only good knowledge of computers but also with sound knowledge of library systems and services is also very much lacking. There are several other constraints which I need not enumerate here.

Because there is the problem of insufficient knowlege of computers and their functions within the libraries in Africa, interest and subsequent effective participation by librarians is seriously lacking. Compunded with this, is the overall poor communication between personnel in libraries and information units and the computer experts resulting in slow progress in the application of information technology. On the other hand, even though computers have been in Africa for a long time now, computer firms know nothing if not very little about library automation because library activities are different in many ways from the normal business oriented activities. Hence, computer firms have not developed library automation activites to sell to libraries and information units in Africa. No library in Africa has therefore received any advice or help from computer firms in terms of library softwares, which is due to lack of knowledge by the two parties of what they can do for each other. Libraries and information units in Africa need computer aided information retrieval services because:

- more information is being produced and more particularly in machine readable form which need machines to obtain access to it

and

- machines can be used to increase the quantity as well as the quality of information more efficiently.

Furthermore, printing and publishing are still at the formative stages in many of the African countries - yet they need information and more sophisticated information for their socio-economic and political development. Cooperative systems amongst libraries in Africa do not also exist as is the case in industrialised countries, so that although information sharing through cooperative systems as we know them, would be a help, it is impossible to set them up. Some African countries do not have well established library infrastructure while others have poorly stocked and staffed libraries. Information sharing by African countries will therefore only be a reality through automated library systems which will enable libraries and information units to develop their own information databanks and through computer networks, they can arrange to share with others through searching on-line.

THE PAN AFRICAN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (PADIS)

At this point, perhaps I can now say something proudly that some efforts are being made in Africa to establish an infrastructure for libraries and information units with a view to harnessing of information and knowledge in the service of socio-economic development and the linking of all activities in Africa.

The need to establish PADIS was realized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as a result of lack of relevant properly organised and processed information to support economic and social development of the member states. The primary reason for establishing PADIS was, therefore, to bridge the yawning information gap that has been created and is existing in Africa by facilitating the exchange of development information among the UNECA member states. It was thus, officially launched on January 30, 1980 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by the United Nations ECA.

The primary objective is to satisfy the information needs of Africa users at the industrial, institutional, national, and international levels, by providing the member states of ECA with accurate and up to date information, partinent to policy formulation, planning and monitoring and evaluation through a number of activities. PADIS is thus currently providing the following services:
production of DEVINDEX - Africa which is a publication containing bibliographic description of documents on various countries of Africa; non-conventional literature on micro-fiche; computerised Information System which prepares PADIS's print-out data bases.

PARTICIPATION IN PADIS

It has already been stated that the need for the establishment of PADIS was due to lack of properly organised and relevant information to support economic and social development programmes of the ECA member states. But for any member state to reap fruitful gains from the African network of information, it must have a proper national information infranstructure with a centre designated as a National Focal Point (NFP) staffed with trained staff and given adequate government financial support. In this regard, it is important that every ECA member state establishes a national infrastructure for libraries and information units, set up a national focal point before the country can gain from PADIS the following:-

- access to the PADIS data base and through it, be able to tap information from ECA members states and International ~~Information~~ Systems in any of the subject areas handled by PADIS
- cooperate with other libraries and information units throughout the ECA member states and be able to exchange information on common disciplines
- realize saving in cost from a cooperative venture to computer based systems
- benefit the recent progress in automation, computation and micro-photography, aimed at facilitating exchange of information between libraries and information units within the ECA member states.

4917

Unfortunately, however, majority of librarians, archivists, documentalists and other information workers in Africa do not yet know much about PADIS, what it plans to achieve, how it is running its activities to achieve the goal, and hence its implication to the African individual National Information System. Effective automation in libraries of the African continent is essential, first as a house keeping service to develop institutional databanks with a view to advancing into national, regional and continental network of databases. This is an area where PADIS could play a leading role, first by making all the ECA member states to establish national infrastructures for libraries and information units and to establish National Focal Points. Secondly, PADIS should organise and run short courses for librarians, archivists, documentalists and other related information workers in Africa on PADIS's aims and objectives with a view to getting them to implement PADIS's objectives.

It would be pittiful to Africa therefore, if PADIS had elaborate plans on paper but failed to implement these plans practically. Crucial in this exercise are the number and quality of the manpower required in the sytem. It goes without saying that the effectiveness of an information will depend on the skill with which it is designed and operated, as well as the facilities with which users can manupulate the system to advantage. Skill and design is the professional responsibility of librarians, archivists, documentalists and other information workers. If PADIS is to succeed, then these information specialists will need to be involved right from the word 'go'. PADIS should therefore institute some effective user education programmes for information workers to know what PADIS has been establised to do, what it plans to do and how it intends to do it. Those ECA countries which have professional journals should be used to publicise the work of PADIS, and the Library and Archives professions should similarly be used. PADIS should seek to be represented at all forums of information specialists in Africa if it is to effectively achieve its aims and objectives.

For example, in the region of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, there exists two forums: SCECSAL for librarians and ESARBICA for archivists. These two groups of information specialists meet regularly, every two years and cooperation between them and PADIS is essential. Without this cooperation, it is doubtful how PADIS will succeed in achieving its goals because it is these same infomrmation specialists in national ECA member states who will be called upon to implement or advise their respective governments on the implemantation of PADIS's plans.

Talking to colleagues in Kenya on the effectiveness of PADIS there were some doubts cast on it. One observation made is on the type of computer chosen - the MINISIS of IDRC which is not compatible to other computers. Perhaps this area could be examined further to find out how far MINISIS computers could be used throughout the continent of Africa.

International information resources could provide the means for meeting some of the deficiencies and gaps in the national information systems of the African countries. In fact, at present, libraries and information units in many African countries rely a lot upon a number of foreign libraries in Europe and USA to meet a large proportion of the requests made to them by users. While we appreciate the inevitable shortage of both trained manpower and money and the absolute need to use whatever is available to the best advantage through the pooling of resources and the coordination of activities, the following recommendations are being made:-

i. Since international cooperation today very much depends on the state of information technology, all the major libraries and information units in Africa should be encouraged to automate some of their services, if not all

ii Professionals in the library and information units in Africa be given opportunities to attend both short and long training programmes, as this is likely to equip them with latest knowledge in information handling considering the problem of how to cope with information explosion in libraries and information units

iii Governments of ECA member states should be given their fullest support to the running of PADIS and its natinal focal points.4

REFERENCES

1. KAPP, Marco. Information Technology and the competitive edge. East African Computer News 2(2), March, 1986.p.3

2. PRICE WATERHOUSE ASSOCIATES. 1986 Kenya Computer Buyer Guide. March, 1986. Price Waterhouse, 1986

3. WERE, Mrs. Jacinta. Problems of automating libraries in a developing country: Kenya in DSE/PADIS Training Course Nairobi/Kenya, 21st April to 2nd May, 1986 Use of Computers in Information Handling. p.1.

4. OCHIENG, W.O. Training workshop on the use of computers in Information work, with special reference to PADIS held at Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi from 21st April to 2nd May, 1986. Unpublished report to Moi University.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE TOKYO 1986

Division:

Section: Regional Section for Asia & Oceania

203-ASIA-7-E

Australia - It's role in and contribution to Asian library development

by

Jennifer L. ADAMS

Executive Director

Library Association of Australia

Sydney, Australia

Keywords:
Librarianship
Asia
Australia
International relations

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

To be brought to meeting no:

067 67

Remarks

To be presented orally ×

For distribution only

4964

Introduction

During the last twenty years there has been a significant increase in Australia's involvement with its neighbouring countries, and this is particularly true in the development of library services. This paper explores Australia's current involvement and potential future activity. It does not claim to be a comprehensive catalogue of everything that is being done by Australian libraries but discusses the major programs being undertaken by Australia to assist in library development.

It examines the activities of the International Relations Committee of the Library Association of Australia and the contributions made by the National Library of Australia and the International Development Program of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee. It briefly touches on the increasing involvement in the area of staff exchange programs by some Australian institutions and discusses education and the export of computer software as areas of potential growth.

4965

Library Association of Australia

The Library Association of Australia has had some involvement in international librarianship since its establishment in 1937, however until more recent years this was very much on an ad hoc basis. It depended primarily on the specific interests of individual members of the Association. By this I mean that if a member had a particular interest in librarianship in a particular country or was interested in an international organisation such as IFLA or COMLA, then those interests were likely to be brought to the attention of the Association. The Association then became involved by offering moral or, in some cases, small amounts of financial support to assist the member in attending an overseas conference and, on occasions, inviting them to act as the Association's official representative.

A look back through the files of the Association also shows that it responded whenever possible to requests from countries for assistance. There are a number of cases where requests were received from other library associations in countries such as India, Singapore and New Guinea, to name a few, and the Association responded to these requests as best it could. Such requests ranged from suggestions for speakers, to ways in which the Association could have closer links with the association of a neighbouring country. The Association has, when possible, supplied deposit copies of some of its publications to libraries in the region.

Until the late 1970's the channels of responsibility and reporting for the Association's role in international relations were unstated and under-developed and there was little continuity in Australia's representation and little perceptible Australian input to international library discourse.

In 1978 the Library Association of Australia conducted its first China

Library Study Tour led by John Barclay. A group of 23 librarians visited China for about 18 days and during their visit discussed with their Chinese colleagues the possibility of further contact by means of Chinese attendance at LAA conferences, visits in both directions, exchanges of correspondence and journals, and exchanges of practitioners, students, researchers and teachers in the area of librarianship. In other words, sharing in ways that would develop Chinese and Australian librarianship and which would possibly spread to other countries.

On their return to Australia, and in an effort to ensure that there would be future contact and sharing with the Chinese, the LAA China Library Study Tour Group unanimously decided to

(1) call on the LAA to establish an international librarianship group, and

(2) form an international relations special interest group.

At the LAA 20th Biennial Conference, which was held in Canberra in 1979, Robert Wedgeworth, the then Executive Director of the American Library Association, during his keynote address called for greater LAA international involvement in regional library affairs.

Following the 1979 conference a report was put to the General Council of the Association recommending the establishment of an international relations committee, and in March 1980 General Council agreed to its formation. The terms of reference of the committee were:

- to review the Association's policy concerning international relations matters and to make recommendations to General Council;
- to liaise with other organisations associated with the international relations interests of the Association, including the Department of Foreign Affairs, Australian National Commission for UNESCO, IFLA, COMLA,

CONSAL, etc., keeping them informed of Association policy and encouraging mutual co-operation where appropriate;

- to communicate regularly with Association members on international developments relevant to Australia and to encourage interest and involvement in international relations activities organised by Branches, Sections or Special Interest Groups;
- to encourage greater consideration and understanding between Australian librarians and other librarians through the fostering of exchange and internship programs as appropriate;
- provide briefings for the Association's representatives at international conferences (for example, IFLA), and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and General Council about such representation. Ensure that reports are received and acted upon where necessary;
- initiate major international relations activities for the Association such as high-level study visits and organise appropriate activities as directed by General Council. Manage such funds as are made available to it in accordance with Association policy.

So, for the last six years the LAA has endeavoured to give its involvement in international librarianship, and, in particular, involvement in the Asian region, a higher profile and a more formal program within the Association's activities. Since that time the Association has organised another visit to China in 1983 and has hosted various functions for Chinese delegations which have visited Australia. It has also played host to other overseas visitors who have come to Australia and has assisted some of these people, on request, in planning their itinerary while visiting our country. Obviously, we welcome visitors to the Association's offices in Sydney.

The International Relations Committee has organised the despatch of books

4968

on a couple of occasions, however it has now decided that this is something best left to ACPAD (the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development), about which further information is given later in this paper.

In 1984 the LAA's Biennial Conference was held in Brisbane and this was an opportunity to hold a COMLA Regional Training Session in conjunction with the conference. The Association was successful in obtaining $7,500 from the Australian Development Assistance Bureau to assist participants from several surrounding countries. These were Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands. It is hoped that participants from neighbouring countries will be able to attend other LAA biennial conferences, but an application for funding from ADAB for this purpose was not successful in 1986. The committee will be endeavouring to attract funding for the 1988 conference of the Library Association of Australia, which will be held in conjunction with the IFLA conference. We are confident that such an important international event will allow us to attract funding to assist some participants, as was done in 1984 in Brisbane.

As a result of the work done by the International Relations Committee the Association has adopted a statement on the South West Pacific which is aimed at encouraging co-operation and joint action by the libraries and librarians in the region. It is proposed that similar statements should be adopted on other regions. The International Relations Committee has also put forward submissions to the Australian Government on overseas aid programs on behalf of the LAA to ensure that the information needs of countries benefiting from Australia's aid programs are considered in any program planning being carried out. Because the Association has little funding available to provide specific services to neighbouring countries, it is often better able to work through Government bodies such as ADAB and IDP.

The Association has, to date, developed close links with the New Zealand Library Association and the Canadian Library Association, however it has not developed any formal relationships with associations in the Asian region. It has directed its main involvement to its relationship with IFLA and with groups such as COMLA, CONSAL and UNESCO.

During 1985 the Association undertook a major review of all its activities. During the review it became clear that while the International Relations Committee had put the Association's international involvement on a more formal footing, the Association was trying to spread its limited resources too widely and was perhaps not achieving as much as had been initially hoped for. The report of the review team drew attention to the fact that the Association's first priority is to its members and the profession in Australia. It recommended that the Association decide on priorities in the area of international relations and that it pay particular attention to Asia and the Pacific. It called for an action plan which, it stated, must be adhered to, and stated that the Association can no longer continue its current pattern of trying to respond to every call for assistance. The major part of the Association's involvement in international relations should be a strengthening of involvement in IFLA and, through IFLA, a greater involvement in the neighbouring region.

Following this report, a more detailed report on international relations was drawn up by a sub-committee of General Council.

It recognised that the Association is not in a position to provide resources in terms of money or staff but should facilitate developments in the region. The Association believes that its energies should be directed to its nearest neighbours, i.e. the Asian and Pacific region, and that any future programs should be of mutual benefit. While we believe that Australia can

be of assistance in the development of library services in Asia, we also believe that Australia can benefit from closer ties with its near neighbours and the Association would hope that its international relations program would reflect this. The Association has invited Mr. Allan Horton, University Librarian at the University of New South Wales and an IDP Regional Library Consultant to convene its new International Relations Committee.

We will continue to encourage staff exchanges. The Association does not have the facilities to assist in the organisation of staff exchanges but it is willing to publish the names and details of persons wishing to exchange positions. It is then left to the interested parties to make contact and finalise details.

The Association will attempt to develop practical avenues for co-operation. It will seek closer ties with other library associations in the region, but rather than trying to work closely with individual associations it will channel its energies through umbrella organisations as it believes this is the way it can have maximum effect.

This change in our strategy should not be regarded as a backward step. The Association believes that while its input must, of necessity, be on a relatively small scale, it is now in a position to achieve a more focused and effective international relations program.

It hopes, too, that by holding IFLA in Sydney in 1988 it will draw worldwide attention to libraries in our region.

National Library of Australia

The National Library of Australia has long had a concern for the Asian-Pacific region. For thirty years this has been expressed in collection development activities, in personal contacts at various levels with librarians in neighbouring countries and, increasingly, in projects of assistance and mutual co-operation.

Collection Development

The Library has always sought to collect material relating to the Pacific in support of its statutory requirement to develop and maintain a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Australia and the Australian people. To quote from the National Library of Australia Selection Policy:

> Priority A2 Pacificana
>
> The Library gives high priority to the collection of Pacificana. It collects comprehensively publications originating in or relating to the South Pacific (including New Zealand, Antarctica and Papua New Guinea). It collects publications comprehensively which relate to the exploration of the Pacific as a whole. It also collects pictorial material selectively to illustrate the exploration of the Pacific and the history and development of the South Pacific.

Similarly, the Library has given high priority, since the mid 1950's, to collecting Southeast Asian publications, bearing in mind the duty imposed on it in the National Library Act to serve Parliament and the departments and authorities of the Commonwealth.

The result of this collection building activity is that the National Library of Australia is not only far and away the largest general library

in the Southeast Asian and Pacific areas, but also one of the world's great libraries of specialist material relating to the region concerned.

Indonesian Acquisitions Office

To secure a more effective supply of Indonesian publications the Library established an Acquisitions Office in Jakarta in 1970. Under the Indonesian Acquisitions Project, the Office has secured material not only for the National Library but for a group of other libraries in Australia and New Zealand.

Following the Review of Commonwealth Functions in 1981 the Library was required to downgrade the staffing of its Jakarta Office and this and other constraints have reduced substantially the effectiveness of the Indonesian Acquisitions Project. The Library has made representations to have restored the Australia-based position in charge of the Office but it has not been successful in the current economic climate. A compromise solution involving the employment of a locally engaged acquisitions officer supplemented by several acquisitions visits a year by a member of the staff of the National Library has now been approved.

Thai Acquisition Project

As a further example of the depth of the Library's collecting in the region, determined efforts have been made since 1982 to acquire Thai materials. It is generally accepted today to hold one of the most significant collections of Thai material in the world.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries on Resource Sharing in Asia and the Pacific was established on the initiative of the previous Director-General. The first meeting was held in Canberra in 1978, the second in Tokyo in 1982, and a third in Colombo in 1985.

Relations with New Zealand libraries

Following discussions with the US National Library of Medicine, six New Zealand libraries were enrolled as participants in the Australian Life Sciences Network in 1981.

An important link with the National Library of New Zealand was established by the New Zealand decision in 1981 to establish a national bibliographic network modelled closely on ABN and employing the same software. National Library of Australia staff supervised the installation of the New Zealand Bibliographic Network and arrangements have been made for the exchange of bibliographic data between the two countries.

Recently the Singapore Government resolved to establish a similar bibliographic network and it is significant that, once again, the decision was made to secure the same software. As a result there has emerged the real possibility of a regional network for the exchange of bibliographic information.

Medical Information Services in the Western Pacific

Under a contract to the World Health Organisation the National Library and the Department of Health provide batch-mode searches from the Australian MEDLINE database on behalf of countries designated by WHO as included in the Western Pacific area.

The National Library has been promoting actively the concept of a much upgraded service in this field. The project has not yet secured WHO support but, meanwhile, an online link has been established between Canberra and the University of Singapore and the possibility of a similar link with Papua New Guinea is being pursued.

Regional Co-operation Program

In 1980 the Library submitted a new policy proposal for the establishment of a regional co-operation program designed to provide direct assistance to national libraries in developing countries in the region and to support projects of mutual concern. The proposal secured the personal endorsement of the then Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Fraser, and operations commenced in the 1980-81 financial year.

The program comprises several elements:

a) Book Placement Program. Libraries are offered a list of Australian books from which they may select items up to a value set by the Library.

b) Provision of inter-library loan photocopying vouchers. Those libraries which wish to receive them are provided with a supply of vouchers so that they can secure free delivery of copies of periodical articles or other documents either from the Library or from other Australian libraries.

c) Free computerised literature searches. The Library offers participant libraries free searches on all the databases to which it has access. In 1982/83 this provision was extended to include free SDI (selective dissemination of information) services.

d) Co-operative Projects Program. The Library has funded a whole range of activities under this. Work experience has been provided in Australia for librarians from neighbouring countries, contributions have been made to meeting the cost of two successive conferences of Southeast Asian librarians (CONSAL V, Kuala Lumpur, 1981 and CONSAL VI, Singapore, 1983), and visits have been funded to neighbouring countries by Australian experts in both librarianship and conservation to give on the spot advice.

Projects supported for 1985/86 included: 4975

- Microfilming of manuscripts in the Palace Library, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Indonesian National Scientific Documentation Centre (PDIN) - short training courses in Indonesia for map librarians.
- National Library of India - work experience and training programs at NLA for 2 staff - one in library automation and one in conservation.
- National Library of Laos - consultant's visit to Vientiane to train staff in use of conservation materials.
- National Library of Malaysia - work experience and training in conservation at NLA for 1 staff member for three months.
- Third International Conference of National Library Directors of Asia and Oceania, Sri Lanka, September 1985 - grant of $5,000 towards the conference.

ASTINFO (Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experience in Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific)

It is clear that Australia is seen to have a crucial role in the effective developments of this network, which is designed to facilitate the flow of information and experience in the region. It is important to note that, whereas a number of other participating countries nominated non-library institutions to represent them, the Australian choice of its National Library was automatic.

Exchange arrangements

The Library has current agreements for the exchange of official publications with over 700 institutions in East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Many of these agreements are of long standing; for example, formal agreements for the exchange of official publications with countries in Southeast Asia date back to the immediate post-World War II period.

The Library has a close relationship with the National Diet Library and the staff exchange scheme between the two libraries has resulted in the secondment of a series of Japanese librarians to the Library since 1965. This is seen as a significant bond between two national institutions and between the countries they represent.

Relations with the National Library of China

The first ever delegation of librarians from the Peoples Republic of China visited Australia in 1978, and a return delegation headed by the then Director-General went to China in 1980.

One of the Deputy Directors of the National Library of China, Mr. Tan Xiang-Jin, was attached to the National Library of Australia for the years 1980-82, making a special study of library automation.

The Director-General led a delegation of six librarians from the National Library and the Library of the Australian National University to China in 1983, at the invitation of the National Library of China, and the library is arranging for further work experience attachments at the National Library in the future.

Relations with other Australian regional initiatives

The Library has had considerable involvement with the Department of Foreign Affairs, to mutual advantage. It has received assistance from Department of Foreign Affairs officers both in Canberra and at overseas posts. The Library has provided advice and assistance with projects undertaken under cultural exchange agreements, such as a visit of Chinese librarians to Australia in 1984 and plans for a return visit in 1986. The Department has also assisted with the conduct of the Library's continuing relations with the National Library of Vietnam.

4977

The Library contracted with the Australian Development Assistance Bureau in 1983 to provide training and experience in Australia for a group of Malaysian librarians and is discussing similar arrangements for training Burmese university librarians in the current year.

The Library's operations in the region, in several instances, have complemented those of the International Development Program (IDP; formerly AUIDP). In particular, the IDP commitment to major support of the library of the University of the South Pacific follows several years' participation by that library in the National Library's Regional Co-operation Program, particularly in relation to the functioning of the University of the South Pacific library as a regional information centre.

International Development Program

The IDP (International Development Program - formerly called the Australian Universities' International Development Program) was founded by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee in 1969 to assist universities in neighbouring developing countries. The main aims of the new organisation were to:

- Increase the universities' capacities to contribute to national development;
- strengthen their staffs' institutional and individual self-reliance; and
- extend their international contacts.

The IDP helps university staff in developing countries, particularly those in the ASEAN countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific, to improve their teaching, research and administration. It also helps them to help themselves through the co-operative development of their academic, scientific

and technological capacities. Hundreds of Asian, Pacific and Australian academics, scientists and technologists have participated in the program and their work has covered a wide range of disciplines in more than 30 universities. The program funds fellowships and study visits to Australian institutions. It sponsors secondments of Australian staff and visiting assignments for them. It runs short courses led jointly by Australian and overseas staff and it also sponsors joint research and the translation and publication of textbooks.

The Australian Government supports the program through ADAB (the Australian Development Assistance Bureau) of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Funds also come from the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Australian universities and colleges, overseas co-operating universities and other funding agencies for contract and consultancy projects. The IDP co-operates only with the institutions nominated to it by government departments responsible for national higher education programs and the co-ordination of overseas aid in relation to national planning and development.

The program provides three broad kinds of aid:

- Institution-wide assistance to upgrade a wide range of academic, administrative and technical areas.
- Aid to priority disciplines or fields.
- Focussed programs,usually in a single field for a limited time.

Library services play a major role in the IDP and receive aid under all three areas.

Library programs take several forms. Help is offered in integrating existing academic department support programs with reader services. In some cases university libraries get direct technical assistance and, when funds are available, some library materials and equipment are provided. In other cases training opportunities are offered in Australia or Australian

library advisers are made available to overseas universities. The biggest library services need is in Indonesia where there is a lack of qualified librarians and of an attractive career path in librarianship. The Regional Library Consultant is the University Librarian of the University of New South Wales, Mr. A.R. Horton.

There are two other significant projects which are funded by ADAB and managed by IDP.

The first of these is BISA (Bibliographic Information on Southeast Asia) which is contracted to the University of Sydney's Library and Department of Indonesian and Malaysian Studies. The Director of the BISA project is Ms. Helen Jarvis. The project aims to establish greater access to and utilisation of Australian library resources on Southeast Asia and its objectives are to complete the basic data bank by increasing the number of entries from 8,000 to more than 40,000. It gives on-the-job training and experience to Asian librarians to familiarise them with BISA and with techniques for creating and accessing computerised literature and searching services. To date, eight groups involving some 30 trainees from six countries have participated in BISA training sessions. BISA is assisting in the endeavour to apply computers to Asian scripts and can act on a consultancy basis to assist in the selection of library hardware and software.

The second project is ACPAD (the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development). ACPAD collects books, journals and other publications, preferably in English, for distribution to universities and institutions for higher education in developing countries.

The funding provided by ADAB enables ACPAD to meet the costs of sorting, listing, shipping and entry.

Publications are donated by Australian tertiary institutions, business houses and libraries and they now form part of collections in universities and higher education libraries in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

A growing number of institutions in developing countries are becoming interested in the scheme and Australian institutions are being encouraged to make donations.

Priority areas for donation have been identified as food and agriculture, science, medicine, education, economics, engineering and English as a second language.

Other areas

As well as the more formal programs outlined in this paper, there is work being done by individual libraries and librarians with a commitment to the region. In mentioning a couple of examples, there is grave danger in leaving out some who are making a major contribution so I will limit my examples to two recent experiences.

The Australian National University library has a long established exchange program of staff and material with libraries in China. Over the last ten years much assistance has been given by the Chinese to build up the Chinese collection at ANU, and in the last four years eight librarians have been sent by Chinese libraries to ANU to receive further training in the library. In 1985, Ms. Susan Prentice, Senior Librarian for East Asian Area Studies became the first librarian outside China to work in the National Library of China in Beijing since the founding of the Peoples Republic in 1949.

Another first came later that year when two members of La Trobe University

were the first representatives in the exchange agreement between the School of Education at La Trobe University and the Foreign Language Division at Beijing Teachers College.

The Australian National University also receives visits from librarians from other Asian countries, e.g. Vietnam, Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia, and carry out intensive material exchanges with a number of Asian libraries.

The Future

So, what of the future? There will be at least continued involvement at the current levels, as outlined in this paper. While most organisations would wish to expand their involvement it must be recognised that Australia is itself facing economic difficulties at present, and most publicly funded bodies have had to accept fairly substantial cuts in their 1986/87 budgets. It is unlikely, therefore, that a major increase in activity will be possible in the near future.

There are, however, two areas of future potential for co-operation between Australia and Asia. They are not in the form of assistance and will have to operate on a profit, or at least a cost recovery basis, but they offer great opportunity for library development and for future resource sharing throughout the region.

The first of these is the export of computer software from Australia. Our software has a high reputation and there are several library systems of Australian origin. We also have the associated relevant expertise to set these systems up.

Several Australian software packages are being marketed in Asia and some have been installed. The AWA Urica package is in use at the Baptist College in Hong Kong, the Ngee An Polytechnic in Singapore, and has just been sold

to the National Library of Singapore. AWA provides local support through a Singapore-based company and project support for new installations using Australian expertise. As well they are involved in the development of a terminal for use with Urica which will enable the use of Chinese, Korean and Japanese text.

The Stowe Computing 'Book Automated Library System' software has recently been installed at the Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts. It is the first Australian software to be accepted by IBM as a logo product and is being marketed by IBM throughout Asia. It will also have IBM support for installations.

The Libman package, for which Wang Computers has the sole marketing rights, is being actively marketed in Asia and Wang are particularly interested in its use in China.

ACI Computer Services is hoping that it will be able to increase regional use of the AUSINET database, as well as many databases of Australian information. Lack of access to date has probably been caused by limitations on the international packet switching network MIDAS which is not yet available from most countries to Australia. ACI has received visits from countries such as Korea, China and Singapore to discuss the establishment of local AUSINET type services, and because of their strong presence in the region they see great future potential in both assisting locally and increasing access to AUSINET.

This is not a comprehensive list but it does indicate the potential market which some Australian software companies perceive the region offers.

The second area of potential growth is education, including continuing

education for library personnel. Several colleges in Australia have either already begun to run courses outside Australia or have initiated discussions. WAIT (the Western Australian Institute of Technology) has run several courses in Singapore. RMIT (the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) has been having discussions with both China and Indonesia and Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education is interested in the South Pacific area. The growth areas are in both initial training and continuing education. Some might be run partly in Australia and partly in the home country, and it would be hoped that they would receive formal recognition in both countries. Courses will have to run on a cost recovery basis and not place excessive strain on the existing programs, but it is believed that there may be some Government funding for these activities.

As well, most Australian library schools already have ADAB funded students and this will continue.

There is an obvious sensitivity in terms of the contributions that can be made to the Asian and Pacific countries. Australia, at both the Government level and in the library profession, has demonstrated a commitment to the support of developing countries. What has to be understood in terms of library service and cultural values is that we must foster positive development and not be seen to be adopting a handout mentality.

The success of the IDP (International Development Program) more than anything else demonstrates the sensitivity of Australian involvement.

In the broader sense, it is true that the Australian library profession works in almost total isolation and this is demonstrated by the minimum Australian representation at the impending CONSAL meeting, and here in Tokyo. The prime factor of course is the high cost of travel to and

from Australia which prohibits many librarians from attending overseas conferences.

The Library Association has given considerable thought to Australia and its international relations, and how it concentrates its thrust. There is still a lot more work to do. One can only applaud the work of people like Allan Horton, Margaret Trask, Judith Baskin and the many others who are involved in librarianship in the region. The Association looks forward to building on that work and would be interested in your comments on what options we should pursue.

217 - REG.ACF.3.E

NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES: are there benefits to be expected?

by

JULIO CUBILLO

Regional Adviser in Information

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America
Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation
CEPAL- Clades

Key -words

Information technology
Latin America
Appropiate technology

meeting no. 160 135

5153

INTRODUCTION

Latin America as one of the Third World regions is faced with the problem of having to cope with and properly monitor the introduction of an ever incresing number of information technologies, mostly generated in the highly industrialized countries.

The fierce competition of corporate industrial firms dramatically explains the accelerating pace with which technology, be they new products or processes, are introduced into the market.

2. The potential for technological change these new technologies offer towards highly cost/effective library and information services is certainly very vast and should not ,in my opinion, be disregarded. However, a number of still largely unanswered questions come to mind in this connection: Are library and information services really taking advantage of new technologies? What are the benefits new technologies might bring about? What are the costs that should be avoided or minimized? This paper is a preliminary attempt to explore some of these questions(*)

3. The paper has been divided into three main sections.

Section I gives a few short definitions about modern information technologies and its range of application in library and information and documentation services (LIDS) departments.

In section II , a review is made of sources of benefits and costs that might be forthcoming during the introduction of new information technologies.

Section III provides with a brief review of the situation existing in Latin America

The discussions of the three sections finally converge into a set of implications and conclusions.

(*)Many ideas for this paper were identified at discussions held with IFLA regional secretariat in Caracas: Mrs Rosario Horowitz and Mrs Clara Budnik. My collegues at Clades also contributed with ideas in this area when discussion to establish an internal task force to deal with the question of modern information technologies was set-up.

Further communications with the author can be adressed to Cepal/Clades, Casilla 179-D , Santiago-CHILE.

I. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ISSUES IN LIBRARY,INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES (LIDS): Scope of the paper

4. The activities of library and documentation services are normally carried out by specialized departments in a variety of organizations through which development activities are promoted in developing countries.

Specialized libraries and technical archives of governmental agencies, large university libraries, documentation centers of private sector firms or research and development and engineering groups, satellite collection containing grey literature existing everywhere in the organizations etc. can all be considered to belong to the LIDS family.

5. In order to identify the area of problems adressed by this paper we have to define our understanding of modern information technology as being the set of devises, methods, procedures and principlesthat are essential to undertake the operations of the information transfer cycle. The cycle covers from theidentification and selection of information and documents generated by specialists in a particular field to the delivery of the same information, documents or documents surrogates(citations, abstracts,..) to the users. However, to associate technology exclusively with library and documentation services operations would be too restrictive in my view. Management of LIDS is other important technology utilization area together with information research and development projects (thesaurus construction, software design, etc.)

6. Secondly, the kind of technologies we will be looking at in the paper will essentially be digitally-based information handling procedures and devises such as those involved in the processing, storage and retrieval of information and information dissemination. Thus primarily computer and telecommunications technology will be at the focus of our discussion.

II. SOURCES OF BENEFITS AND COSTS WHEN MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ARE INCORPORATED INTO LIDS.

7. The incorporation of new information technologies into LIDS departments of Latin American institutions normally follow or at least should follow a sequence of steps:

-An area of application of new technology in the LIDS department should be identified

-The available technology meeting the requirements of the application area should be detected

- One technology or combinations of technologies should be selected

-The preferred technology should be acquired

-The acquired technology should be introduced into the application area

-The introduced technology should be utilized , mantained and monitored

-The technology should be disseminated to other areas of the institution or other akin institutions in the country or region

8. Each step of the sequence entails a potential for costs and benefits. The way in which each step should be carried out is by no means unique and must suit the characteristics of the situation existing in the institution introducing a technological change in the LIDS area.

It should then be kept in mind that each step has options or alternatives. Each of these involve costs(sacrifices or foregone benefits) and benefits(satisfaction, avoided costs) that should be at least be identified and named. Only in a few cases costs and benefits would be amenable to a rigorous measurement procedure.

9. The first step is the specification of technological requirements.

Technological requirements' specifications are a result of an anlysis of existing practices in an application area of a LIDS department. A preliminary study should be undertaken to compare the impact of continuing with exsting practices,i.e. where no use is made of modern information technologies, with the benefits of introducing technologies.

The quality and exhaustiveness of the study should be in agreement with the total impact that the incorporation of new technology is expected to bring about. Large expected impact would probably require much more from a preliminary study.

The absence of such a study is normally coupled with the absence of clearly formulated objectives that are expected to be met by using the technology. As in any other area of library and information services, planning pays.

10. The identification of technological options follows.

This is primarily an exercise where librarians and documentalists should excel since it involves:

-facts and documentation finding
-information analysis
-preparation of an organized storage of captured documents and facts for later retrieval.

This is again a time consuming effort that however promises big rewards at later stages.

Many information technologies ought to be acquired in markets dominated by commercial firms of industrialized countries. This is basically true for hardware devises. However, it should be kept in mind that particularly when software and procedures are involved, non-commercial alternatives might exist at universities and international organizations

It is desirable to have a broad range of alternatives for a better choice. However, the broader the range the higher the costs involved.

The main benefit of undertaking this step properly are:

-learning effects involved in a familiarization with the technology

-potential for better decision-making in future similar projects

11. Then comes the selection of information technologies

This is conceptually speaking the most important and the most difficult part of the sequence.

It involves rigour, systematic analysis and clear criteria for comparing alternative technologies.

It also requires estimating the cost and the benefits to be expected in the following stages of acquisition, introduction, use and further dissemination of the technology.

It should be kept in mind that costs and benefits estimates depend upon the standpoint and the ares of impact or dimensions considered.

The standpoint is the answer to the question: who will benefit or be prejudiced by the change brought about by the new technology? the manager of the LIDS department? the LIDS department as a whole? the institution? the society surrounding the institution? a whole region?

Also there are dimensions for comparing costs and benefits.

These are:economic, social, financial,cultural and political.

If technological choice is to have any value the standpoints and dimensions should be clearly specified.

12. Once technology is selected it should be acquired.

Normally,if a commercial transaction is involved the procedures of acquisition are straightforward. Depending on governmental controls and degree of efficacy of public administration, transactions mighthowever be more or less cumbersome.

A special case of information technology acquisition is where no alternative technology is available or what is available meet the requirements only partially.There, a decision might be taken to indigenously developing the technology. The feasibility of this will depend upon the prospects of recovering involved in R&D efforts.

13. There also are opportunities to capture benefits when the it comes the point where the technology is finally applied.

Provided technology has not been acquired on a turn-key basis,the application of new technology normally involves:

-Experimentation with the technology so as to gain confidence and become familiar with it
-Adaptation of the technology so as to make it work better in the particular situation where it is supposed to operate.
- Training of staff so that they can properly interact with the technology at operation stages.

The more resorces are invested in these activities , at least up to a point, the more benefits can be captured by the LIDS department.

Particularly, adaptative research undertaken by the LIDS project team or by the departments of the organization will increase the probabilities of assimilation of the technology by the institution.

Assimilation requires an understanding of the technology so that it can further be improved or adapted to fit other applications.

The question of maintenance is also critical in developing countries. Whether it is hardware or software, technology should be safe enough so that breakdowns are avoided or eliminated. Moreover, maintenance should ideally be simple and become the responsibility of the institution without further needs to keep dependency links with the technology supplier.Availability of spare parts and inputs should not pose problems at the operation stage.

Periodic assesments on the operational behaviour of the technology can be carried out so as to identify areas for further adaptation and improvements to local circumstances.

14. Finally, there is the question of dissemination of the technology beyond the realm of its first application in the LIDS department.

The possibilities of extending the application of information technology to other sectors of the LIDS department, to other branches or departments of the institution or other institutions will further increase the benefits of technological change.

However,to this to became a reality an outward mentality is required on the part of LIDS project team involving:

-the preparation of training "kits" and tools

-the organization of demonstration of the technology

-the publication and dissemination of LIDS innovative experiences at professional forums.

15. After a first experience, the technology in the hands of the LIDS department is a bundle or package consisting of different kinds of knowledge, skills and information embodied in human beings or machines or disembodied in documents.Some elements of the package cannot be disseminated if propietory rights are involved while others can easily flow to other parts of the institution or beyond the institution.

Probably, the core of the package will still be composed by the foreign acquired technology. However, in the periphery all sorts of new knowledge added by the LIDS team to increase the suitability of the core technology to local circumstances can be found.

III THE LATINAMERICAN SCENE

16. To analyze a problem area in the field of library and information and documentation services where a whole continent is involved is certainly a formidable task. Moreover, a seminar paper-necessarily limited in time and space for its delivery-prevents a treatment of the subject that can do justice to each and everyone of the near thirty countries that presently constitute the region, if the Caribbean sub-region is also included. The risk of superficiality or the issueing of sweeping generalizations has to be kept in mind.

At this stage, it is worthwhile remembering a fact that is recognized in theory but usually forgotten in practice: the diversity of situations existing in the Latin American continent. This implies that an experience that can be valid for BRAZIL a continent-country in itself, may not necessarily apply in medium sized or small countries, size measured either according to population, territory or economic potential. This fact tends to be forgotten even by ourselves the latin americans.

Last but not least, very few empirically -based studies are available in the region on the question of introducing modern

information technologies in LIDS departments. So what is to be presented is taken mainly from unsystematic observations in the field.

18. What is the overall situation of the introduction of modern technologies in Latin Amercica?

The following statements in the absence ofstatistical facts can at best be considered as plausible hypothesis for later testing.

a. LIDS departments have still now not widely incorporated modern information technologies, although many initiatives are cropping up lately.

b. The majority of applications have to do with creation of bibliographic data bases for retrieval purposes using large mainframes or minicomputers. Some library house-keeping systems are in place. A few automated SDI systems are also functioning.

c. The dramatic growth in the purchase of microcomputers in Latin America are creating renewed conditions for automation in LIDS departments.. The number of applications based both in commercial and non-commercial systems is growing at an accelerated pace.

The majority of these applications are based , with the exception of Brazil, on USA technology. Japanese technology has been important in peripheral equipment.Brasil informatics policy has explicitly promoted the production of microcomputers and software in the country.

d. On the whole then,technological innovations have so far been utilized to replace card catalogues by machine readable files.They have tended to increase service availability and speedup its delivery times but generally has not been conductive to new information services and products(for example, information repackaging).

e. Managers of LIDS departments are yet far from being heavy users of new information technologies. Apart from wordprocessing applications, very little use has still been done of project management software, statistical packages for the processing and analysis of LIDS statistics,etc.

f. Information technologies in support of R&D information projects have seldom been used so far excepting a few isolated experiences(for example thesaurus construction,..)

g. In many countries telecommunications links to commercial online databse services are established , particularly in large size and a few middle sized nations.So far, however, the by at large prohibitive connection costs and royalties have prevented

the widespread use of these services. Industrial or commercial firms located in these countries have been so far the dominant clientele in the utilization of foreign data bases.

h. In view of the small resemblance of problems and/or conditions faced by developed countries the reporting of which constitute the bulk of commercial online services, databases containing local experiences have begun to become appreciated. However, weak marketing efforts and accesibility problems explain why these databases, potentially more relevant, remain unknown or underutilized.

i. New possibilities opened by electronic mail and teleconferencing systems exist in Latin America. However, to my knowledge, LIDS departments have not yet taking advantage of them.

19. What are the benefits and the costs that have impacted LIDS involved in technological innovation projects in Latin America?

a. On the whole, and in terms of specification of technological requirements, library cataloguing and library house-keeping systems have been well planned.This might be partly due by the mere size of investments involved thus requiring a planning effort. The same situation does not equally apply in the field of adopting microcomputers. A normal technical assistance request in the region has been been : my institution already bought microcomputer X and database software Z. How can I use them to automate my catalogue?

In the majority of catalogue automation projects the initiative have come from LIDS departments. Very seldom if at all, users or top mamagers have put preassure on LIDS managers for the modernization of information services.

b. The identification of technological options has been a rather painful process.

In a few succesful cases the institution's computer centre and the LIDS project team have undertaken joint work to interact with vendors of technology. Many a times, however, computer centres have not involved the LIDS team when technological choices decisions have got to be taken.

Other trend observed in some large scale projects has been the unrealistic offer to LIDS departments on the part of the institution's computer centre, of developing software ignoring the fact that computer systems for library applications is a highly difficult and specialized subject

On the whole, information on technology options have not been systematized and is not readily available for other institutions.

c. In the choice of information technology is where there seems to be more room for improvements.

So far technogical choice decisions appear to have been taken with incomplete information about existing options and with but a partial consideration of costs and benefits involved.

An emerging trait is observed. This has been the consideration of only highly visible or tangible effects of the technology. Among these the direct acquisition cost and immediate productivity gains. Less attention have been paid to other "hidden" costs such as training, adjustments of LIDS services , etc.

The standpoint of evaluations has mainly been that of LIDS department while dimensions considered have been primarily economic and/or financial. Less attention has been devoted to examine social, cultural or political dimensions.

Potential areas of "unsuitability" of the technology in regards with local conditions such as breakdowns, recurring maintenance costs do not seem to have been much explored.

d. In relation with technology acquisitions, funds have to a large extent came from external assistance sources. In a significant proportion of cases external assistance have not been tied with particular technologies without thus artificially reducing the range of technological choices.

It is to be hoped that this situation continues to be so or still further improves.

e. There are succesful stories of applications of new information technologies in LIDS departments. Success can be measured in terms of smoothness in technology introduction, shorter periods from acquisition to start-up, adequate absortion of operational knowledge in LIDS departments, etc.

A key success factor seems to have been an active involvement and commitment of librarians and documentalists in the process, either by integrating joint teams with system analysts or by assuming, after previous training, some of the technical responsibilities of computer specialists.

This participation has ensured relevant experimentation and adaptative research and development.

The unsuccesful stories, on the contrary, can be associated with full delegation by LIDS team of responsibilities in other specialized departments of the organization or external technical

services firms. The problem, to my mind, has arisen because of a lack of previous experience of external departments or firms of working with LIDS staff. Technological developments in LIDS department share similarities with other efforts(for example MIS projects) but also have many important differences. These differences appear to have been overlooked.

An undesirable feature of many innovative projects in LIDS departments have been the insufficient generation of documents and training products to transform the knowledge about the technology in an institutional resource. Knowledge in large proportion has been embodied in persons thus involving the risks of loosing knowledge if these persons had to leave the organization.

f. Dissemination of the technology once it has been mastered has not been forthcoming in Latin America.

It is true that a few demonstrations have been organized for other collegues of the profession. However, in the absence of basic computer literacy on the larger part of the profession demos in the region can be expected to have a rather limited effect.

Project leaders should be encouraged to publicize there experiences and offer training and technical assistance opportunities so that the technology can be disseminated as widely as possible provided of course propietory rights are duly respected.

CONCLUSIONS

20. The potential of modern information technology is largely untapped in Latin America in terms of increasing the cost / effectivinees of existing services or creating new services and information products.

Modern information technologies generated largely in indusrial countries should not be considered intrinsically EVIL for developing countries provided their beneficial effects are maximized and detrimental effects controlled through proper planning and management of technological innovations.

New information technologies should be analyzed with an open but highly critical mind. We latin americans should not loose our rights to select but what is convenient for us.

We are certainly also in our right to close the doors to modern information technologies. However, sooner or later each and every member of the information and library profession will have to face the challenge. We have to prepare ourselves for it.

21. There is on the whole a growing awareness and a big concern in the region about the effects of modern technology on LIDS work.

We feel the urge to embark ourselves in technological innovations since we do not want to remain stagnant or having to dissapear by obsolescense. We are not sure though where the new technology would leads to.

The demand for training is growing in this area and technological issues are beginning to be more frequent in professional discussions.

However the capacity for action on the part of information and library professionals has so far been very limited.

The risk of not taking action resides in that decisions and policies affecting the development, acquisition and introduction of modern information technologies, together with the required research and training efforts, might not longer be in the hands of or at least under the influence of library and information professionals.

22. So far the literature has stressed computer literacy programmes. I feel that training on the management of modern information technologies also has a place. In the absence of local managerial capabilities and leadership a mass of professionals now literarate in the use of technologies will remain a largely underutilized resource.